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Controls To Remain in Place Despite COCOM Demise

PM2505151194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 May 94 First Edition p 6

["Own Information" report: "Friendship Is All Very Well, but Let's Keep Our Smokes to Ourselves. The West Is in No Hurry To Allow Russia Access to Advanced Technologies"]

[Text] Another pillar of the Cold War—the notorious COCOM [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls]—is apparently not long for this world. Having existed for 44 years, it formally ceased to operate at the end of March. It is therefore natural to ask: What happens now, what can Russia expect now that it has suffered from COCOM's sundry bans and restrictions?

U.S. Department of State spokesman Mike McCurry announced that this matter was discussed in detail during a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in Vladivostok. It is also the focus of attention at the U.S.-Russian consultations currently being held at expert level and "at the highest level." It is expected that Russia will be able to take part in all aspects of the new international agreement on export control procedures which is to replace COCOM.

It is intended to formulate this procedure by October this year. But for the time being, the Department of State spokesman indicated, the 17 COCOM member countries "have agreed to retain during the transitional period the potential to exercise control at national level over the trade in goods appearing on COCOM's lists." At the same time members have been instructed to apply national export laws and display extreme vigilance regarding trade in products which could have serious consequences if supplied. In other words, during the entire transitional period—until October—and in the interests of national security (of the United States, Japan, and the other COCOM member states), a tough licensing policy will be retained in respect of anything that has been manufactured using complex technologies.

M. McCurry explained that we should not expect to see any changes regarding control of exports to the DPRK and the delivery of military technologies to Russia and China. Nor should countries which support terrorism entertain any rosy hopes. The new licensing rules will be introduced almost solely with regard to telecommunications equipment designed for civilian use.

Let us remind readers that the list of products banned by COCOM for export to former communist bloc countries includes 150 items which now need to be reviewed. However, according to data in the JAPAN TIMES, this will not apply to approximately 10 categories of state-of-the-art dual-purpose technologies and materials. These include coding devices and heat-resistant and highly porous composite materials and coverings used in the aerospace industry, for example in the manufacture of Stealth aircraft.

Regarding the structure and tasks of the new international organ, the newspaper stresses that it is primarily designed to counter the dangerous proliferation of weapons in Third World countries such as Libya and Iraq whose actions pose a threat to the world community.

In the opinion of William Raynsh [surname as transliterated], who has been appointed U.S. deputy secretary of commerce by President Clinton, Russia and the other former Soviet republics are unlikely to be among the founders of the new organization. We expect these countries, he indicated, to try to achieve the same objectives using their own export control systems, and they will be able to join our organization in the future.

So is COCOM on the way out? It is, but only to remain in place, it seems: So control-free times are not just around the corner.

CSCE Committee Discusses Crimea Issue

LD2505174394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1459 GMT 25 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kuzmin]

[Text] Vienna 25 May TASS—The situation in the Crimea was discussed at a session of the standing committee of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe here on Wednesday [25 May].

According to diplomatic circles, it was acting chairman of the standing committee—the main CSCE body for holding political consultations—who proposed to consider the issue at the session.

Representatives of 17 countries took part in the discussion on the Crimean issue. According to a Russian delegate, the Russian position in respect of the sovereign republic of Crimea, a constituent part of Ukraine, has not changed. Such legal principles of CSCE, as territorial integrity and inviolability of existing borders, should be observed when trying to settle the problem. It is necessary to exclude resorting to force or threats to resort to forceful methods in attempt to solve emerging political problems.

The participants also discussed a draft resolution of the CSCE standing committee and decided to postpone its adoption on Thursday.

The draft resolution focusses attention on the role CSCE may play in preventing further aggravation of the conflict in view of the current situation in Crimea and available opportunities for a peaceful settlement of disputable issues.

Symposium on Surplus Explosives Ends

PM2505102194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 May 94 p 2

[Report by Boris Konovalov: "NATO Joins in Conversion"]

[Text] The International symposium on the conversion of concentrated energy systems—powder, solid propellants for missiles, explosives, and pyrotechnic mixtures—has ended in Moscow. This was the first time that scientists

from the East and the West, among them representatives of NATO's scientific committee, had worked together at such a forum.

"If someone had told me five years ago that I would be in Moscow discussing problems of the peaceful use of secret rocket fuels with Russians, that would have seemed pure fantasy," Dr. H. Krause, a member of that committee, told me.

Professor H. Schubert, one of the organizers of the symposium, stressed that the exchange of experience and ideas in this sphere is extremely useful—mountains of weapons have been stockpiled and represent a great danger. From time to time these weapons remind you of their presence with colossal explosions endangering the population and the natural environment. However, the reports delivered by academicians B. Zhukov, G. Sakovich, and V. Tartakovskiy, Professor Yu. Frolov, and many others showed that an explosive that has become surplus to requirements can be of use to people.

TNT, for example, can be used to produce polymer film and artificial diamonds can be made from substandard powder. Powder charges can be used in magnetohydrodynamic generators, which in turn can be used to detect mineral deposits and increase the accuracy of long-term earthquake forecasting. Converted missiles can be used in reverse to drill bore holes. It is surprising but true that even fires can be put out using powder charges, which release flame-extinguishing aerosols from the warhead casings. These casings can be fired straight from a grenade launcher through the window of a blazing apartment to put out a fire.

These are many examples of this kind but they require prior scientific research work which is, unfortunately costly. Here, too, cooperation with the West could prove highly useful.

UN's Goulding To Visit Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

LD2505114194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0959 GMT 25 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Banting]

[Text] Hiroshima May 25 TASS—Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will be visited this week by U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Marrack Goulding. He will hold talks with the prime ministers of the two republics, will hand over to the Tajik Government a message from the U.N. secretary-general. This news was furnished to ITAR-TASS by Marrack Goulding, who is now attending a U.N. conference on disarmament here.

Goulding bluntly refused to disclose the contents of Butrus Ghali's message, but noted that it was devoted to the political situation in Tajikistan and to the settlement of the existing differences between the Tajik Government and the opposition. Goulding's visit to Tajikistan will take place on the eve of the multilateral consultations on the situation in that republic, which are expected to begin on June 4.

Goulding spoke highly about Russia's efforts to settle the conflict in Tajikistan. "Moscow is rendering the most vigorous support to the U.N. efforts to achieve a settlement in that republic," he stated.

The U.N. assistant secretary-general ruled out the possibility of U.N. peace-making forces being sent to the republics of the former USSR. "We regard the achievement of political concord between the conflcting groups as an indispensable precondition for this," he stated. "But there is no such precondition in any of the republics, including Georgia, which urges us to send our troops to Abkhazia. Therefore," Goulding pointed out, "we welcome Russia's full-scale participation in the settlement of inter-ethnic conflicts in the former USSR, and we believe it is very important to ensure close cooperation between the United Nations and Moscow in this effort."

Chief of the analysis and forecasts department of the Russian Foreign Ministry Ednan Agayev, who is attending the U.N. conference in Hiroshima, told ITAR-TASS that he welcomed Goulding's visit to Tajikistan. He expressed the hope that this would contribute to more active U.N. participation in the effort to settle the conflict in that republic. "Unfortunately, the U.N. still does not display any readiness to assume a greater share of the responsibility for this effort. It is adhering to a passive stand," he noted.

Baltic Sea Countries Meet in Tallinn

Foreign Ministers To Cooperate

WS2605095294 Tallinn ETA in English 0736 GMT 26 May 94

[From 26 May EESTI SENUMID, RAHVA HAAL, PAEVALEHT, HOMMIKULEHT, p 1,3; "News Bulletin" No. 101/94]

[Text] Thursday, May 26—The foreign ministers' meeting of the Baltic Sea Countries ended yesterday with the passing of a joint communique stating considerable development of the political contacts and economic cooperation of the member states. The communique calls for turning the Baltic Sea area into a region of special economic growth.

The ministers expressed support to the EU-Baltic free trade negotiations and hoped that a friendship and cooperation agreement between the EU and Russia could be concluded soon.

More attention was paid to improved cooperation in transport and energetics, especially in the use of seaports. The need for simplified border crossing procedures was also stressed.

The communique welcomed democratic reforms in the Baltic states, Poland and Russia, stressed the importance of the troops withdrawal from Lithuania and Latvia and reiterated the "speedy, complete and orderly withdrawal" demand. The dismantling of the Russian nuclear reactors in Paldiski and technical and legal aid to the process was mentioned.

The statute of the Euro-faculties was approved and it was decided to open another faculty in the Kaliningrad region.

The Baltic Sea Countries Council senior officials committee is to consider the forming of a permanent secretariat. The meeting will also consider Iceland's appeal to join the council.

Poland was elected next chairman country of the Council. The foreign ministers' meeting established the post of another human rights commissioner. Danish lawyer Ole Espersen was appointed Special Commissioner for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

Espersen commented that his tasks include the protection of human rights and ethnic minorities and added that private individual, groups of persons and organisations are free to appeal to the commissioner. But he pointed out that he cannot deal with all council member countries at once, due to the limited resources and manpower. He met the representatives of the Estonian Institute for Human Rights yesterday.

Representative of the EU sir Leon Brittan offered a possibility to form a free trade area between the EU and the Baltic Sea countries outside the union. Free trade has a central position in the relations between these states and the EU and it would not be too early to think of a common trade region, he stressed.

The border issues between Russia and Estonia were not mentioned at the meeting, contrary to the earlier promises of the Russian foreign minister. Kozyrev unexpectedly announced at the news conference that Russia has no border disputes with neighbouring countries and that the issue will not be raised at the Paris conference either. Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik, however, stressed that Estonia will bring up the border subject. as the Balladur Pact conference is the best opportunity for discussing it.

Baltic Air Forces Sign Agreement

WS2605095194 Tallinn BNS in English 1554 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Vilnius, May 25, BNS—The chiefs of Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Air Forces agreed to cooperate in controlling air space and training pilots.

According to an agreement signed Tuesday [24 May] at the Meskuciai air base in Lithuania, the three nations intend to create a joint system of air space control.

Baltic defense officials say the plan has a number of technical and financial advantages, especially considering intentions to join NATO structures.

Supposedly, a Baltic air space control system can be created in 5 to 10 years.

During talks in Meskuciai, the three countries agreed to create a joint pilot training center in Lithuania. On Wednesday, Estonian Air Force pilots flew their first training flights on Lithuanian planes.

Lithuania's Air Force is considered the strongest among the Baltic states with its four Czech-made jet fighters L-39, two transport planes L-41, which were donated by the German Government, and several Soviet-made AN-2 biplanes.

Two Lithuanian L-39's and one helicopter will participate in celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the Latvian Air Force in Riga Saturday. The celebration will also be attended by a Lithuanian delegation, headed by the acting Air Force Chief, Colonel Stasys Murza.

Discuss Fishing Problems, Environment

WS2605073794 Tallinn BNS in English 1318 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, May 25, BNS—Estonian Environment Minister Andres Tarand and Lauri Vaarja, general director of the Fishing Department, returned today from Sweden where they attended a fishing conference of the Baltic coast nations. On the agenda of the conference were the situation with the stocks of fish, fishing statistics and exchange of information.

The meeting discussed the decline in the stocks of cod in the Baltic and the need to improve statistics on cod fishing, as well as diseases of Baltic salmon and the possibility of joint reasearch into their reasons.

Vaarja reported to the meeting on Estonian statistics concerning stocks of fish, noting that collecting complete

overall statistics is difficult, since the task of amassing data has been laid on local governments.

The participants decided that, in order to improve catch statistics, the Baltic Sea states should exchange information about all fishing vessels that put in at their ports and prevent illicit port visits.

Tarand said in an interview with BNS that coordinating cooperation between Baltic coast nations on the level of prime ministers is one of the opportunities to improve information exchange.

The meeting in Sweden also touched upon the stock of seals in the Baltic. Although seals pose a threat to fish, they are in jeopardy themselves due to environmental pollution.

The next fishing conference was set for the beginning of 1995.

Kozyrev Addresses Baltic Sea States Council

LD2505165194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 25 May 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: By correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaly Trubetskoi, and others]

[Text] The Russian delegation expressed its deep concern over the situation in the sphere of human rights in Estonia at the Third Conference of Foreign Ministers of Member-States of the Baltic Sea States Council in Tallinn.

The memorandum circulated at the conference, underlined that establishment of an independent Estonian state was going hand in hand with pushing the non-Estonian population out of the country. The document emphasized that Estonia had adopted and was implementing several laws discriminating against the Russian- speaking population in Estonia. In particular, this meant the law on citizenship, depriving a third of the population of citizenship, the law on language, hampering employment of ethnic Russians, the law on local elections, which does not admit the election of non- citizens and the law on aliens which made many Estonian permanent residents foreigners in their own country. There is also a law on schools limiting studies in Russian to the first nine years of secondary education.

The Russian delegation suggested that the recommendations by international experts, including the CSCE and Council of Europe High Commissioner for Ethnic Minorities, had not been taken into consideration when adopting these laws. The document also stressed that implementation of the legislation was left to the arbitrary whims of officials. The Estonian authorities fail to display any appropriate response to this, the document said.

Russia proceeds from the fact that the legal rights of the non- ethnic population in Estonia and settlement of their civil status concerns not only Russian-Estonian relations but the whole world community, the document underlined.

The Russian delegation circulated one more memorandum urging the participants in the council to work on projects for development of infrastructure and transport in the region, to coordinate improvement of navigation on the Baltic Sea and modernization of sea ports and to facilitate business and other contacts.

Much attention was paid to social and economic development of the Kaliningrad Region.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is concerned over the activities of the Baltic Sea States' Council which he has estimated as not so effective.

Speaking at the third conference of foreign ministers of the council, which unites ten states of the region, Kozyrev wished that activities of the council would be more concrete; particularly as concerned cooperation in the humanitarian sphere and human rights.

Kozyrev submitted to Estonian Foreign Minister Yuriy Luik a letter on the part of Russian retired servicemen revealing concrete examples of violations of their human rights. The letter said that elderly people older than 60 were demanded to present medical documents confirming they were free from AIDS or venereal diseases and that military pensioners were deprived of free medical care.

Kozyrev suggested that the commissioner for democratic institutions and human rights could be charged with such issues. Kozyrev hoped that the commissioner would also control the situation with the Russian-speaking population in the Baltic states. Russia would assist the commissioner with his activities on Russian territory, Kozyrev stated. He announced that Russia approved of the candidacy of well known Danish politician, former minister of justice Ole Espersen.

Kozyrev spoke in favor of cooperation between the members of the council in the sphere of infrastructure and transport and between different regions of the member-states. He spoke for the future chairmen of the council to be more energetic and efficient. Kozyrev supported the candidacy of Poland as the head of the organization for the next year.

Kozyrev on Troop Withdrawal

LD2505155994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1357 GMT 25 May 94

[by ITAR-TASS special correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn, 25 May—The withdrawal of troops from Estonia must be carried out on the basis of a treaty, as is being done in Latvia and Lithuania. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated this today at a news conference on the results of a ministerial session of the Council of Baltic Sea States [CBSS].

Russia, he continued, did not send troops to Estonia, but it cannot leave them to their fate. The situation in former Yugoslavia shows what could have been the result of such an action. The responsibility for the troop contingent in the Baltic countries, which Russia has taken upon herself, also includes social guarantees for servicemen. "We discussed these questions with President Lennart Meri and Foreign

Minister Juri Luik," Kozyrev said, "and soon we will have a legal basis for troop withdrawal." The head of the Russian foreign affairs department stressed the necessity of settling the problem of military pensioners. He reminded everyone that on the previous day he gave Juri Luik a letter from one of the groups of former servicemen. "We cannot ignore the situation these people are in," the minister noted.

Juri Luik stated in turn that the Estonian side now has more ground for hope that the troop issue will be settled. The withdrawal of the troop contingent and the issue of the military pensioners are two parallel problems which should not be linked to each other, but they must be settled, he said.

A question was also put to the Russian minister concerning the "sharp tone" of the memorandum on the situation of the Russophone population in Estonia. " We are looking for friendly, goodneighborly relations with Estonia, and this implies the settling of issues mentioned in the memorandum," he answered. Further, touching upon the problem of border disputes, Kozyrev stated that this subject was not discussed within the framework of the present CBSS session. He added that if it had, it would have been like opening "Pandora's box," and once again pointed to the Yugoslav situation.

The Estonian side, on the other hand, is in favor of discussing the border issue. Juri Luik said at the news conference that Tallinn intends to raise this question at the forthcoming Paris conference on the stability in Europe pact.

Andrey Kozyrev, summing up the whole CBSS ministerial session, repudiated the claims of those politicians who think that all problems can be settled immediately. "We are acting on a stage-by- stage basis and are moving toward our goal," the Russian minister said. He said that setting up the post of commissar for human rights and ethnic minorities was one of the most important decisions of the meeting. In particular, his job will include seeing that the rights of the Russophone population in the Baltic countries are observed.

Session Concludes

LD2505162294 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1100 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] The third session of the Council of the Baltic Sea States foreign ministers ended at noon today. At the close of the session the foreign ministers adopted a joint communique in which they note with satisfaction that political and economic relations between the countries on the Baltic Sea have advanced considerably. The foreign ministers are satisfied with the agreements between the European Union [EU], Finland, Sweden, and Norway as well as with the association agreement between the EU and Poland. The ministers are also in support of the free trade talks between the Baltic countries and the EU and hope that the EU and Russia will conclude a friendship and cooperation agreement in the near future.

In their joint communique, the foreign ministers welcome the political and economic changes in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Russia. They also emphasize the importance of the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania and the importance of the troop withdrawal agreement concluded between Latvia and Russia. The foreign ministers repeated their call for foreign troops to be withdrawn from Estonia and Latvia, swiftly, completely, and in an orderly manner.

The foreign ministers considered it highly necessary to make cooperation on transport and power engineering more effective between the member states and emphasized the importance of sea transport and the development of ports. The communique also emphasized the need to strengthen nuclear safety within the Baltic basin, and supported the proposal of the working group on nuclear and radiation safety attached to the Council of the Baltic Sea States, to provide technical and legal assistance to the dismantlement of the Russian nuclear reactors located at Paldiski.

Euro-Asian Union Idea Still Under Discussion

LD2505111994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0805 GMT 25 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Akimov and Amangeldiy Akhmetalimov]

[Text] Alma Ata [Almaty] May 25 TASS—"The Euro-Asian union may spring up from the mutual integrational urge of the CIS countries. The restoration of the former union or the establishment of some sort of a confederation is out of the question. The new union must be a logical culmination of the basically new community of states, former members of the USSR, which now make up the Commonwealth of Independent States, provided they are really interested in the establishment of deeper and more effective multilateral relations," press secretary of the Kazakh president Nurlan Danenov told the newspaper "KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA".

Interviewed by ITAR-TASS, he said that he was compelled to make this statement due to recent speculations around Nazarbayev's Euro- Asian union idea. In his opinion, the Kazakh president's statement on the Euro-Asian union, made during his official visit to the Russian Federation last March, was now being used for unseemly political purposes. Some analysts are trying to use the differing approaches of some CIS leaders to Nazarbayev's proposal in order to drive a sort of wedge between the commonwealth members.

The press secretary expressed the conviction that the CIS potential was still not exhausted. "The commonwealth has already played and continues to play an important role in the legal corroboration of inter-state relations within it, contributing to the civilised 'divorcement'of the republics after the collapse of the Soviet empire. However, the pace of the intergrational processes, mildly speaking, could have been much faster. Most telling is the absence of structures that would ensure the fulfilment of the already concluded

agreements. Dissatisfaction with this state of affairs was behind the Euro-Asian union idea," Danenov noted.

As to press allegations that "President Nazarbayev had allegedly dropped the Euro-Asian union idea, well, they can evoke nothing but surprise. The idea was not officially raised anywhere. There was nothing but a call to exchange views on the possibility of finding ways for promoting constructive cooperation with CIS countries that are particularly important for Kazakhstan and which experience the same need for our republic. Hence, the Euro-Asian union subject can in no way be officially excluded from further discussion," Danenov explained.

Central Asian Reluctance on Eurasian Union Noted

PM2505123994 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 May 94 p 2

[Nataliya Ablova article: "If I were Nursultan.... Having Swallowed Sovereignty, It Seems the Central Asian Republics Do Not Wish To Set Up a Eurasian Union"]

[Text] A meeting between [Kyrgyzstan President] Akayev, [Uzbekistan President] Karimov, and [Kazakhstan President] Nazarbayev at the beginning of May on the shores of Lake Issyk-Kul created much fuss and bother in the CIS, particularly in Russia. Moscow journalists tried to call their colleagues in Bishkek, but the latter had no idea themselves about what was happening in Cholpon-Ata—the meeting was closed to journalists.

Recently a number of Kirghiz [Kyrgyz] politicians have started thinking about the problem of reestablishing the former Union, stipulating that this new union will be quite a different sort of association. Unfortunately there cannot be another kind: It is either one or the other. Either we go back to the old unitary state, and in doing so shed the blood of all those who disagree with this idea. Or we must independently swallow the troubles and savor the joys of our new existence. The prospect of a Eurasian confederative state is still a long way off and will only be realized given very intelligent leaders and very patient peoples. And it must be agreed that this prospect is more of a wish than a possibility.

Calls by various Kirghiz parliamentarians, and also by the leaders of the newly fledged parties, to at least begin this process by uniting the Central Asian states therefore sound extremely naive. Even these countries which are so close in ethnocultural and geographical terms have in the space of under three years of independence had enough time to go their separate ways. Let us ask ourselves whether the peoples and rulers of the Central Asian states want to establish a confederation with common borders and supranational organs of government and justice, and let us try to answer this question honestly.

The situation is clearest of all in Turkmenia. What the people of this republic think is "a complete and utter mystery." In conditions of totalitarian censorship and the suppression of the slightest political activity, it is impossible to say anything about the expression of the popular will. For the time being the Turkmenbashi [President Niyazov] speaks for the people, and he is unequivocally opposed to uniting with anyone in the solar system. During a recent CSCE seminar a certain person "close to the emperor" let it be known openly that the commanding elite of Turkmenia had made a simple calculation: The money earned by selling off oil and gas would suffice until 2030. It would then be clear whether a market economy should be introduced and whether or not Turkmenia should unite with anyone.

Everything is also clear as far as Tajikistan is concerned. Nobody in their right mind would take steps to unite with a state where a civil war is far from over. Clan feuds, the onslaughts of the intransigent opposition, refugees, Afghan infiltration.... Outsiders want to put an impenetrable wall between themselves and all these problems, they are in no mood for unification!

Three countries remain: Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, and Uzbekistan. It was the presidents of these three states who attended the get-together at Issyk-Kul.

Kazakhstan. Everyone knows that Nursultan Nazarbayev is a convinced supporter of any form of unification with former Union states. But he is more interested—indeed principally so—in union with Russia. Such an association would resolve some of Kazakhstan's economic problems. It would take the heat out of the problem of the northern oblasts, where the population is primarily Russian. This is an unbearable burden, despite the shared expenditure on maintaining Baykonur and reprofiling the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site, a burden which is pressuring the Kazakhstani president and pushing him toward integration. However, Russia (or its present government, to be more precise) is not desperate to unite with Kazakhstan or with Central Asia as a whole. We will not dwell on Russia's reasons, but the Kazakhstani population is by no means entirely on its leader's side. The ruling elite has already had time to savor the sweet taste of independence, and is not keen to see the status quo changed just like that.

Uzbekistan. Of all Kirghizia's closest neighbors, this is the most complex partner Karimov undoubtedly dreams of leading the region. He is extremely irritated both by the popularity of the pragmatic Nazarbayev and by the favors being shown by the West to Askar Akayev, "pupil No. 1" in the school of democracy; Karimov currently realizes that there is nothing he can do to oppose the strength and prestige enjoyed by the Kazakhstani leader, whereas he is perfectly well aware of Kirghizia's weak points: The Uzbek population in the south of the republic, which sets its watches to Tashkent time, and Kirghizia's dependence on deliveries of Uzbek energy sources. Like the wise politician he is, the Uzbek president is skillfully playing his trump cards in his contacts with Kirghizia, managing without too much difficulty to secure its silence and submission. But fear is not a basis for possible unification.

So what about Kirghizia? Does it want a union of Central Asian states? Kirghizia needs transparent borders, freedom of trade, a common economic area, and stability. And no

more. It is frightening even to think about the establishment of common supranational structures in the elective, executive, and judicial branches.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 26 May

LD2605070694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0602 GMT 26 May 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, May 26 (ITAR-TASS)—The ROSSIISKIE VESTI newspaper singles out a report on the recent decrees by President Boris Yeltsin, repealing quotas and licences on exported goods and services. The newspaper notes that all firms and organisations operating on world markets will work on equal terms.

Efficiency of their deals will be determined not by quotas set by beaurocrats but by demand and supply.

The newspaper runs a commentary on whether Russia joins NATO's "Partnership for Peace" and on what conditions. Writing about the discussion of this issue in Brussels where Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev is now on a visit, ROSSIISKIE VESTI calls as justified a thesis that cooperation with industrialised nations is a priority question for Russia.

"If we are invited to military cooperation," the newspaper notes, "may be it would be good to link this issue with opening European markets for Russian goods."

The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper carries an interview with Director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service Sergey Stepashin, which he gave on the eve of a meeting between Boris Yeltsin and the service's leadership (to be held on Thursday).

Stepashin criticises "some newspapers, radio stations and TV companies" which have turned, in actual fact, into ordinary commercial firms. He calls on them to reject "good profits" if information suggested to them "smacks of bad taste or is supplied by shady people".

Speaking of the "classic" presence of Western secret services in Russia, Stepashin expresses confidence that nobody plans to destroy Russia. However, "many do not want this huge state, when it takes to its feet, to become a rising political and economic competitor to Western countries".

Writing about the Russian-Ukrainian Government talks on the Black Sea Fleet in Moscow, the same newspaper singles out a desire of the sides "not to declare simply agreement in the spirit of contacts between the presidents but to come to a real agreement".

This means, the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA continues, that "politicians in Kiev start understanding the danger of protracting the fleet's crisis, since the fleet's problem, coupled with the political crisis in the Crimea as well as relations between Kiev and Simferopol, can turn into a dangerous detonator for aggravating the situation".

Noting that the talks on the Black Sea Fleet are not over, the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper points to the need for greater caution in forecasting their results, since experience shows that the sides repeatedly came to an understanding on the Black Sea Fleet, which would be later interpreted in their own individual ways.

"Let us hope that this will not be the case with the present talks," the daily says.

The TRUD newspaper writes about growing unemployment in the Russian Federation. Referring to data from the Russian Labour Ministry, the newspaper notes that "real joblessness is assessed between two and six million people now".

In this connection, the daily prints readers' letters demonstrating how national industry "dies away". One of them reads: Russia's only factory producing trolleybuses in the city of Engels works part-time.

All grounds around the factory are packed with ready-made machines, since there are no purchasers. This is despite the fact that Russian cities are in dire need of new trolleybuses.

This situation has developed due to the fact that the government stopped subsidies to public transport, and local authorities have no funds to replace old machines.

The PRAVDA newspaper censures a television report on Wednesday that there is only one million jobless people in Russia. "The concealment of real data on unemployment," the newspaper notes, "can aggravate a social eruption brewing in Russia."

Referring to information of the international labour organisation, PRAVDA writes that there are some seven million jobless in Russia, and the figure will rise to ten million by next december.

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper writes about fires inflicting huge material damage on the country. According to the daily, "the quantity of damaged areas rose by 50 per cent last year as against the previous figure.

Fires afflicted 15 million hectares in the forest and non-forest zones, destroying timber and other materials worth 110 billion roubles. Moreover, fire-fighting operations resulted in a damage worth 200 billion roubles.

The St. Petersburg-based NEVSKOYE VREMYA newspaper informs its readers of a scandal which erupted at the end of a conference at the Svetlana Joint Stock Society, one of the largest in the city.

The conference which discussed the results of a labour contract between the local and the management over the past year, lasted three days and ended in a no-confidence vote in the factory's managing director Vladimir Bashkatov who was accused of "red-tape and ducking talks with the trade union".

If the manager is not sacked, it was announced that some workers will go on a hunger strike right at workshops.

Grachev Addresses NACC on Partnership for Peace

LD2505140294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1116 GMT 25 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Aleksandr Mineyev and Vladimir Smelov]

[Text] Brussels, 25 May—"Russia is ready for a genuine, fully-fledged strategic partnership with NATO. NATO's Partnership for Peace program also has a part to play in this process." This was stated in Brussels today by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev addressing a meeting of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council [NACC] at the defense minister level. Twenty-five states, including NATO countries and states of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, belong to this organization.

However, he said that this program "is not a comprehensive answer to the realities of the new era." It is merely the first step toward the emergence of a fundamentally new strategic community of allies working for peace and security. Russia, the minister stressed, is interested in a broader relationship with NATO, one which would be in keeping with its weight and position in the system of international ties. We are not claiming any privileged status, he explained. The issue at stake is the nature of the partnership itself. The states of both West and East ought to have an equal interest in deepening it.

Today the Russian side presented NATO with a document containing the parameters of Russia's involvement in the implementation of Partnership for Peace. At the same time, Russia proposes that a start be made on preparations for a large-scale program of cooperation between Russia and NATO, based on these parameters, and that a framework document be signed once these preparations are complete.

In the political sphere Russia proposes the establishment of an effective mechanism for mutual consultations on the entire range of problems involving European and world security. This would function both on a regular basis and in emergencies. This mechanism would be a practical step toward a future system of collective security and stability in Europe under the aegis of the CSCE. In the military sphere, Russia is ready to develop cooperation with the alliance and its partners in such areas as the coordination of joint military activity, peacekeeping, transparency in the field of military planning and military activities, and training of personnel. It also expects to strike up a partnership in other areas as well, such as disarmament and arms control, conversion, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and environmental protection.

Commenting on this document, P.Grachev stressed that the Russian Federation advocates the creation of a qualitatively new system of international security, above all in Europe. In contemporary circumstances, the inevitable contradictions between the national interests of various states—contradictions that used to be eased by the rigors of bloc discipline—have come to the foreground. Therefore, it is essential to spot these differences in time and prevent them from becoming factors of military danger or threat.

There are several stumbling blocks hampering the organization of genuinely equitable bilateral cooperation with NATO, P.Grachev went on to say. Specific forms and means of securing cooperation in the sphere of military technology have not been defined. This could bring about a fresh escalation of the arms race. A mechanism of cooperation between Russia and NATO in crisis situations needs to be worked out.

Russia's position, the minister said, is that the strengthening of anti-crisis mechanisms should proceed on an all-European scale through speeding up the transformation of the CSCE into an authoritative, fully-fledged political structure. In the process, the NACC must become an independent body—though with close CSCE links—working for all-European military-political cooperation and prevention and settlement of crisis situations and armed conflicts. In due course the NACC could become the military component of a future bloc-free system of European security. The CSCE and the NACC could exercise constant supervision and coordination of the efforts of the WEU, the EU [European Union], and the CIS in the sphere of strengthening cooperation and mutual security.

P. Grachev declared that Russia did not intend to use the Collective Security Treaty (CST) concluded in Tashkent between the CIS countries as an instrument of confrontation with Europe or Asia, let alone turn it into a closed military bloc.

Grachev Speaks With U.S. Defense Secretary

LD2505121394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1121 GMT 25 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Mineyev and Vladimir Smelov]

[Text] Brussels May 25 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev told ITAR-TASS upon completion of his meeting with the U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry that Perry's reaction to the Russian concept of expanded cooperation with NATO was "even".

"Apparently, this is connected with the fact that the U.S. side is not aware yet about main parameters of our proposals to this effect which will be submitted to the acting U.N. secretary general on Wednesday," Grachev said

During Grachev's talks with Perry which continued over an hour the sides discussed problems of bilateral cooperation, Grachev said. "Our cooperation is growing stronger day-by-day and we are reaching a greater degree of mutual understanding," Grachev said.

Grachev felt at ease in the U.N. Headquarters. He arrived twenty minutes ahead of schedule, wearing an elegant dark-blue suit, while Perry was about six minutes late. However, this did not affect the constructive atmosphere of the talks and was fully compensated by a continuous discussion.

Grachev confirmed that Russia makes no conditions concerning its participation in the Partnership for Peace programme. "We have a broader vision of cooperation and

interaction with NATO than other countries. We suggest such directions for partnership which are characteristic only of Russia and some other NATO member-states. For instance, this concerns nuclear weapons and nuclear control, non-proliferation, reduction and elimination of nuclear arsenals and the transfer of such weapons along the Russian territory," Grachev said.

Parameters for interaction with NATO suggested by Russia today will be used as a basis for a document suggested to be prepared. The document can be drawn either in the form of a protocol of intentions, an agreement or a programme, which does not matter," Grachev said. " The most important thing is that apart from other relations of partnership, suggested to all countries, Russia offers additional proposals which are not characteristic of other states. Russia does not intend to impose anything on anyone and look for its own "warm place" in the system of partnership, Grachev said.

Perry described Grachev's speech outlining the new Russian military doctrine as a historic event of great importance. He pointed out that the United States welcomed Russia's readiness to join the Partnership for Peace programme without amy preliminary conditions. He pointed out that during the talks the two sides discussed problems pertaining to holding joint military exercises on the Russian territory. Considerable attention was paid to cooperation in the field of nuclear non-proliferation, and in particular, to North Korea's nuclear problem and bilateral efforts made by the Russian Federation and the United States for the Bosnian settlement.

After the fifth consecutive meeting between the Russian and the U.S. ministers the two sides are working in the atmosphere of more close contacts, resolving problems of ensuring security in different regions of the world, the U.S. defense secretary said.

UK's Rifkind Welcomes Partnership for Peace Decision

LD2505165894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1611 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Brussels May 25 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev met with British Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind at the NATO headquarters in Brussels on Wednesday to discuss Russia's concept of partnership with NATO.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS, Grachev said that European security is not only NATO's prerogative. Security should be ensured by joint effort of all political and military structures, he added.

Speaking about bilateral cooperation, Grachev noted that an agreement has been reached to send to Britain about 60 junior Russian officers for military training.

Additionally, working groups will be set up this year to study prospects for holding joint Russian-British military manoeuvres next year.

Rifkind expressed satisfaction with the fact that Russia has confirmed its intention to join the Partnership for Peace programme.

In his address to the NATO leaders earlier today Grachev said that Russia is ready to develop broad and constructive cooperation with NATO and called for devising an "active mechanism" of bilateral consultations on all problems concerning European and global security.

Grachev said that "Russia is ready to develop genuine and all embracing strategic cooperation with NATO. NATO's partnership for peace programme should play a role in this process."

However, he stressed that the programme "is not a comprehensive answer to the realities of the new epoch" and is only the first step towards building a new strategic alliance in the name of peace and security.

Russia is interested in broader relations with NATO to correspond its (Russia's) weight and position in the system of international relations, Grachev said. He emphasised that Russia does not claim any privileges, but is seeking to develop and expand the very concept of partnership between the East and West.

He said Russia is also ready to develop cooperation with NATO in coordination of military policies, peace-keeping operations, military planning and training, as well as disarmament, arms control, conversion, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and nature protection.

Yeltsin Orders Reassurance To Be Issued on Crimea Situation

LD2505173994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1611 GMT 25 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 25 May—The numerous alarming reports coming in from the Crimea are creating an agitated mood among the population of the Crimea itself, as well as that of Ukraine and Russia.

Meanwhile, the summer vacation period is approaching. The Crimea is known to be a holiday resort traditionally popular with the residents of Russia, Ukraine, and other CIS states. If a "frontline" atmosphere is artificially created, hundreds of thousands of people may succumb to groundless fear and will thus be left without a place to spend their vacation in.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin has instructed his press service to make it clear to the public that the situation in the Crimea is giving no cause for concern. The calm atmosphere and the entire infrastructure required for normal peaceful rest are being maintained in the Crimea. The president's press service gave this message to the ITAR-TASS agency.

State Duma Warns Against 'Hasty' Decisions on Crimea

LD2505182294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1648 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] The State Duma (the lower house of Russian parliament) has called both on Kiev and Simferopol for "a show of restraint and wisdom and renunciation of hasty or emotional actions". "We are aware of how hopeless and fatal can be any attempt to try to resolve by force controversial issues relating to a popular drive for self- determination", its appeal adopted late on Wednesday says. This was approved without discussion on Speaker of Parliament Ivan Rybkin's proposal.

The Duma speaks of "perceiving with hope a report on the first moves" for dialogue and consensus that Ukrainian and Crimean deputies made during talks in Kiev.

The Russian deputies expect their counterparts on both sides not to allow irresponsible politicians to endanger public peace and security because of their one-off considerations.

For its part, the Duma is prepared "with the delicate situation being taken into account" to do all it can to help towards the searches of compromise on the basis of the Russian-Ukrainian treaty of November 19, 1990.

"For the past two centuries, Crimea has served and we are sure, will continue to serve the interests of the fraternal nations of Ukraine and Russia", the appeal says.

Experts Continue Talks on Division of Black Sea Fleet

LD2505130694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1047 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Today the talks between the Russian and Ukrainian governmental delegations on division of the Black Sea Fleet and the basing of Russian military ships in Crimea were continued in Moscow at the level of experts.

Russian experts are led by Russian Foreign Ministry Envoy, Chief Russian Negotiator at the talks with Ukraine Yuriy Dubinin. Ukrainian experts are headed by Vice Premier Valeriy Shmarov.

Interfax learned that behind the closed doors the experts were working on the second version of the draft intergovernmental agreement on the first stage of settlement of the Black Sea Fleet issues put forward by the Russian party. The first version has been rejected due to disagreement on some of its provisions.

Sources in the Russian delegation told Interfax that Moscow wanted to reveal the issues on which there existed principal discord which demanded a political decision by the two countries' supreme leaders. The main problem concerns the basing of Russian and Ukrainian military ships. Moscow wants Sevastopol to be the main base of the Russian Navy in Crimea. Russia proposed that the Ukrainian navy be based in Balaklava and Donuzlava. Kiev wants a part of the Ukrainian Navy's ships and headquarters to be based in Sevastopol as well.

Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Tarasyuk told Interfax that last night the Ukrainian experts had worked on the draft document. He hoped that the parties would reach a final agreement on Wednesday.

Interfax learned that on Wednesday morning Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin and acting Ukrainian Premier Yukhym Zvyahilskyy were working independently.

Zvyahilskyy had a telephone conversation with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk in the morning in which he requested additional instructions on the talks with Moscow from the Ukrainian leader.

On Wednesday morning Chernomyrdin held a meeting with several members of the Russian government. He also received a group of Chinese journalists and commented on the purpose of his official visit to Beijing. Chernomyrdin will leave for China today in the evening.

No Accord Signed 25 May

LD2505171794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1636 GMT 25 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow May 25 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Acting Ukrainian Prime Minister Yefim Zvyagilsky, heads of the Russian and Ukrainian official delegations to the talks on the disputed Black Sea Fleet, will not sign an agreement on the division of the fleet today, a Russian Government official said.

The official said that the working groups will continue discussion for another 30 minutes and may adopt a joint communique.

Both delegations have contacted their presidents via the hot line several times and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin met with his Ukrainian counterpart Yefim Zvyagilsky to discuss the issue.

The Ukrainian delegation agreed on Wednesday to return to one of the four variants of fleet division proposed by Russia and rejected by Ukraine earlier.

The stumbling block at the talks which have been underway for three days is the disagreement over the location of the Ukrainian and Russian navies.

'Great Difficulties' Seen in Talks

LD2505155094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1456 GMT 25 May 94

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow, 25 May—The Ukrainian delegation at the Moscow intergovernmental talks on settling the problem of the Black Sea Fleet has agreed to continue work on one of the four Russian options for dividing the fleet which had earlier been rejected. As a reserve, the Russian party has one more option—the "presidential"—which is still to be revealed.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned on the sidelines of the talks between the Russian and Ukrainian government heads that the attempt to harmonize the positions of the parties, which are at times mutually exclusive, is experiencing great difficulties. The talks process has already gone on for three days. The chief stumbling-block lies in the conflicting approaches of Moscow and Kiev to the principle of separate bases for the national fleets.

Both delegations have held repeated consultations with their presidents using the telephone "hot" line. Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and acting Ukrainian Prime Minister Yefim Zvyagilskiy met several times today. However the main work is being done by the working group of experts.

It is expected that the sides will draw up the final text of the intergovernment agreement on beginning the division of the Black Sea Fleet. If this happens, the document will be signed by Viktor Chernomyrdin and Yefim Zvyagilskiy, the heads of the delegations of Russia and Ukraine at the talks.

One way or the other, the talks will end this evening, since Viktor Chernomyrdin leaves for an official visit to China after 2000.

Kravchuk Message Delivered

LD2505134394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1313 GMT 25 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow May 25 TASS—Acting Ukrainian Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy intends to convey a message by the Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk to the Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, pertaining to problems of the division of the Black Sea Fleet, ITAR-TASS learned from well-informed sources which follow the talks on the Black Sea Fleet between the Ukrainian and Russian leaders which are underway in Moscow.

The intregovernment talks which have been going on for three days have come to a deadlock. Today, the talks continue at the level of working groups of experts coordinating principles of the division of the Black Sea Fleet, its infrastructure and the separation of national naval bases.

Due to the fact that by 15:00 p.m. the sides had failed to reach a unanimous decision on a number of principally important problems, in particular, on naval bases in Sevastopol. [sentence as received] It was decided to finalize these problems at a separate meeting. "Nevertheless, we are prepared to continue talks as long as necessary," said leader of the Ukrainian delegation to the talks, Yukhym Zvyahilskyy.

Russian special envoy Yuriy Dubinin told journalists, commenting on the situation which developed at the talks, that there is a package of documents on the Black Sea Fleet signed by the Russian and Ukrainian presidents. In principle, the package contains all provisions which might decide the fate of the Black Sea Fleet. "We are attending to matters of translating adopted decisions into life," Dubinin said.

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It has just been reported that Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin met with acting Ukrainian Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy in the framework of intergovernment talks on the Black Sea Fleet. Zvyahilskyy handed over a message from the Ukrainian president to the Russian prime minister.

Experts belonging to the delegation of the two countries continue work at problems which caused controversy at the talks, in particular, these problems pertain to the separation of national naval bases, ITAR-TASS learned from sources close to the talks. The Russian side acquainted its Ukrainian colleagues with four variants of the Black Sea Fleet division, including its ships, infrastructure and separate naval bases. It was reported that another reserve "presidential" variant was prepared.

Delegations To Meet in 10-12 Days

LD2505192494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1826 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Russian and Ukrainian officials meeting in Moscow to discuss the future of the Black Sea Fleet have failed to reach any agreement after three days of intensive negotiations.

Speaking afterwards, Ukrainian Vice Premier Valeriy Shmarov said that although the two sides had toiled in two shifts for three days, there was still some work to be done because a sharing out of the Fleet demanded great attention. He said the two delegations were close to agreement on Wednesday, but had to break off the talks to "clarify some technicalities".

Shmarov said the two delegations were due to meet in about 10 or 12 days to sign an agreement on the first stage of sharing the Fleet.

Russia's envoy Yuriy Dubinin has pointed to the constructive atmosphere prevailing at the talks. He was confident that all of the remaining technicalities would have been resolved to enable the prime ministers on both sides to sign the final agreement in 10 or 12 days from now.

Fleet Capable of Handling 'Provocations' in Crimea

LD2505191394 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 25 May 94

[Video report from Crimea by correspondent Aleksandr Lebedev—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The military council of the Black Sea Fleet has expressed the firm conviction that the situation on the Crimean peninsula is becoming more stable and interference by power structures to overcome the political crisis is completely out of the question.

According to the estimates of experts from the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, the deployment of military equipment by the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine throughout the territory of the Crimea does no pose any

danger from a military point of view. The Black Sea Fleet is capable of intercepting any provocations in the region. [video shows military experts at work]

Fleet Exercises Seen as Successful

PM2505120794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 22 May 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report by V. Tarasov, A. Vozhzhov, and A. Lebedev, identified by caption]

[Text] [Tarasov] Four days of work out on the high seas have seen the ships of the Black Sea Fleet running through various combat training exercises to fend off underwater, surface, and air attacks from any likely adversary. The exercises were led by Vice Admiral Vitaliy Laryenov, first deputy commander of the Black Sea Fleet. In his judgment, the sailors coped well with the tasks set. But in general the results of the exercises would have been far better but for the regular disruption of drills and combat training due to shortages of financial and material resources. It is indicative that these latest exercise, completed without any hiccups, involved inducted personnel. As we know, nowadays warship crews are made up equally of citizens drafted both from Russia and Ukraine. Nevertheless, according to the sailors themselves, the long promised carve-up of the Black Sea Fleet is inevitable. So what is required now is the most vigorous action on the part of top Ukrainian and Russian officials.

Chernomyrdin Leaves for Visit to China

LD2505191094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1848 GMT 25 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow May 25 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin left for China on an official visit late on Wednesday.

During the four-day visit, the Russian premier will meet with his Chinese counterpart Li Peng, Chinese leader Jiang Zemin and hold talks with representatives of Chinese business circles.

The sides are expected to sign an agreement to avoid double taxation, an inter-governmental agreement on the regime of the Russian-Chinese border, an agreement on cooperation in nature protection, an agreement on cooperation in the protection, regulation and reproduction of biological resources of the rivers of Ussuri and Amur and agreements on cooperation in the sphere of navigation and agroindustrial complex.

Chernomyrdin will also tour Shanghai, China's largest industrial centre and free economic zone, visit a joint stock petrochemical company and take a trip to Daliang.

On his trip he will be accompanied by a big group of specialists, industrialists and governors of border regions.

Makes Statement on Arrival

LD2605085994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0434 GMT 26 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Yudmila Aleksandrova, Grigoriy Arslanov, and Vyacheslav Tomilin]

[Text] Beijing May 26 TASS—Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin who has arrived at the Beijing Airport, said in an interview with ITAR-TASS on Thursday that the main aim of his Chinese visit is "to consolidate what was achieved by Russian President Boris Yeltsin in December 1992 and to develop further relations with China".

The programme of the premier's four-day visit provides for talks with Chinese Premier Li Peng, a meeting with the Chinese republic's Chairman Jiang Zemin and visits to Shanghai and Dalian.

According to Chernomyrdin, there are good grounds and prospects for expanding Russian-Chinese relations. He expressed hope that the sides will take important decisions and sign documents during his visit, which will give a new impetus to the development of mutually advantageous bilateral relations.

"We should have good, normal and friendly relations with China," the premier stressed.

Apart from the official welcoming ceremony and the first talk with Li, the premier's programme for Thursday provides for a sight- seeing tour of Beijing and a visit to the great Chinese wall.

Stresses Developing Cooperation with PRC

LD2505161594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1422 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin stated that Russia intended to develop cooperation with China. He told journalists that Russia and China must have normal friendly and even fraternal relations. On the evening of May 25 Chernomyrdin will leave for China for a four-day working visit.

He announced that a large package of agreements was expected to be signed during his visit to Beijing. These agreements cover the following areas: the Russian-Chinese state border regime, cooperation in the sphere of environmental protection, sea navigation, water resources in the border regions close to the Amur and Ussuri rivers, cooperation in the sphere of agriculture, avoidance of dual taxation and cooperation in the sphere of communications.

Chernomyrdin emphasized that in 1993 the trade turnover between Russia and China had increased by 30 pct and amounted to about 8 billion U.S. dollars. He called this a success and added that during the previous years the trade turnover had been decreasing. This tendency was overcome only last year.

Chernomyrdin stressed the importance of friendly relations between the two countries since they had a common border of 6,000 kilometers. He added that there was all necessary grounds for such relations.

Chernomyrdin suggested that China had not forgotten the contribution of the ex-Soviet Union to its development. He said that many graduates from Soviet higher educational establishments occupied high posts in China. Chernomyrdin pointed out that Russia was ready to receive Chinese students and to send Russian students to study in China.

He added that Russia could participate in modernization of Chinese enterprises built with the assistance from the USSR. Chernomyrdin remarked that the potential for development of bilateral relations was not being used efficiently enough.

Chernomyrdin suggested that there were big opportunities in the sphere of military-technical cooperation. He stressed that Russia had military-technical capabilities which must not be ruined even under the conversion program and which could work for export.

Chernomyrdin recognized that there existed problems in Russian- Chinese relations which must not be kept secret. A number of such problems were connected with cooperation in the neighboring regions. He was sure that there must be no barter-relations in trade. Chernomyrdin spoke in favor of a search for mechanisms for mutual account settling.

The Russian government's apparatus told INTERFAX that during his visit to China Chernomyrdin would be accompanied by Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin, Agriculture Minister Viktor Khlystun, Environment Minister Viktor Danilov-Danilyan and Transport Minister Vitaliy Yefimov.

Kozyrev Stresses Defending Rights of Russians in Estonia

LD2505163794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1539 GMT 25 May 94

[by ITAR-TASS special correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn, 25 May—The withdrawal of troops from Estonia will free Russia's hands and it will be able to defend the rights of its fellow countrymen living in that republic more effectively. Thus spoke Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev at a meeting today with representatives of the Russian-speaking population. According to him, when the last soldier leaves, Moscow will be able to step up economic, political, and psychological pressure on the Tallinn authorities and thereby provide all the necessary guarantees for not only military pensioners but the non-native population of Estonia as a whole.

The minister told his fellow countrymen about the results of the meeting of the foreign ministers of the member-countries of the Council of the Baltic states which was held there. He said that the "problems of the Russian-speaking population and military pensioners raised by the Russian delegation found wide response among the other participants in the conference." The head of the foreign relations department of the Russian Federation told them about progress in the implementation of the state aid program to compatriots living abroad. He lamented that the 35 Russian departments participating in it "are not always free from the prejudices of the cost-led economy." It seems that the Foreign Ministry which he heads is no exception since the Russian Embassy in Tallinn still has no "secret" telephone link with Moscow.

In conclusion Kozyrev replied to numerous questions from those present and assured them that Russia "will not leave its fellow- countrymen abroad to the mercy of fate."

Also today, the foreign minister of the Russian Federation left Tallinn for Paris to attend an international conference which opens tomorrow on signing the pact on stability in Europe.

Peace-Keeping Forces To Arrive in Abkhazia in Jun

LD2505131494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1047 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] The CIS peace-keeping forces, mostly composed of the Russian military contingent, are to be introduced into the zone of the Abkhazian conflict before June 10. The latest date for their deployment is June 15. The operation will be supervised by Deputy Commander of the Russian infantry troops, Lieutenant-General Aleksandr Sokolov. Interfax learned this from sources in one of the delegations currently negotiating in Moscow on deployment of the peace-keeping forces. The negotiations are expected to end today.

The Abkhazian delegation is headed by Abkhazian Defense Minister Sultan Sosnaliyev. Georgian Defense Minister Varden Nadibaidze leads the Georgian delegation. Russia acts as a mediator and is represented by high-ranking military officers.

In accordance with the agreements reached on May 14, the peace- keeping forces will be deployed in the security zone which will lay on the Inguri River after the Georgian and Abkhazian troops are withdrawn twelve kilometers from it. The size of the peace forces is expected to be about 2,500-3,000 servicemen.

Interfax learned that a group of Russian officers may leave for Abkhazia on Thursday in order to define specific regions for deployment of the peace-keeping forces.

Expert Claims DPRK Nuclear Program Cannot Be Checked

LD2605095894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0926 GMT 26 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Text] Hiroshima May 26 TASS—"Even the most thorough international inspection of North Korean atomic facilities, carried out by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), will [not] be able to decide for sure whether North Korea is developing nuclear weapons or not," a Russian armaments expert, who wanted to remain anonymous, told ITAR-TASS. The expert is now attending the U.N. disarmament conference in Hiroshima.

He explained his point of view by the specifics of the nuclear technology used by North Korea. Even if IAEA inspectors get access to the nuclear wastes and to the rods of the reactors supposedly used for the development of atomic weapons, even if they get a chance to analyse these materials, they will not be able to decide for sure whether Pyongyang is developing a nuclear bomb or not," the expert stated. In his opinion, this explains North Korea's stand on the inspection of its nuclear facilities. "If North Korea allows the IAEA to carry out a thorough inspection," he said, "this will only increase suspicions that Pyongyang is hiding something from the international community, because IAEA experts will not be able to arrive at any definite conclusion."

The Russian expert believes that suspicions about North Korea's efforts to develop nuclear weapons could be fully dispelled or, on the contrary, confirmed only if a representative international team of experts would carry out a lasting and broad examination of North Korean nuclear facilities, tantamount to permanent control over them, which should continue for several months. "The several days, during which a IAEA inspection will last, cannot resolve the problem of North Korea's nuclear programme," he noted.

Stressing that this was merely his personal opinion, the expert said that he doubted very much the existence of nuclear weapons in North Korea today. "This is why it is necessary to continue the efforts to solve this problem through a dialogue with Pyongyang, and not by means of punitive sanctions against the Korean People's Democratic Republic," he stated.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Calls For Tougher Action Against Foreign Spies

LD2605093094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0852 GMT 26 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 26 May (ITAR-TASS)—President Boris Yeltsin called on Russian counterintelligence to intensify its counter measures against foreign special services which have stepped up their activities on Russian territory recently.

Speaking today at a conference of leaders of the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FSK], he set out the main objectives facing the FSK. ITAR-TASS has learned that, among other things, Boris Yeltsin called for greater efforts to forestall interethnic conflicts and a greater drive against organized crime, terrorism, and the drugs mafia. Success in these areas, the president believes, will help to boost the prestige and authority of counterintelligence agents in society.

The FSK, Boris Yeltsin stressed, must also safeguard the country's economic security. In order to meet these objectives the security organs must be strengthened, the president believes. Attestation carried out within the FSK has helped to increase their professionalism, he said. Boris Yeltsin expressed hope that counterintelligence agents will cope with the tasks they have been set.

Federal Counterintelligence Service Heads Meet

LD2605091494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0757 GMT 26 May 94

[By KRIM-TASS correspondent Olga Semenova]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—Heads of departments and regional bodies of the Federal Counter-intelligence Service met in Moscow today to attend a two-day all-Russia conference on problems of fighting organised crime, terrorism and drug business.

The conference is being attended by representatives from the Russian Interior Ministry, the prosecutor's office and other law enforcement bodies and secret services since problems put on the agenda require close interaction between these structures.

The conference will be addressed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin who will assess the work carried out by the federal counter- intelligence service and outline new tasks in the area of the activities of the counter-intelligence service.

Yeltsin Objects to Shakhray Resignation

LD2505212694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] INTERFAX has reported that President Boris Yeltsin had a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray in the Kremlin today. The head of state once again objected to Shakhray's resignation from the post of deputy chairman of the government. Sources close to Sergey Shakhray's circle have said that this problem no longer exists. During their conversation the president and the deputy prime minister also discussed issues relating to regional policy, questions of the implementation of the bilateral treaty with Tatarstan, and relations with Chechnya.

Yeltsin Reorganizes Control Department

LD2505125794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1047 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] On Tuesday Russian President Boris Yeltsin transformed the control department of the president's administration into a control department of the Russian president.

The president's press service announced that this had been done in order to strengthen the control functions exercised by the president in Russia and to ensure efficiency and coordination of such activities.

In accordance with the provision on the control department, its main purpose is to exercise presidential control over implementation of the laws and presidential decrees and ordinances by the state federal bodies and bodies of the federation's constituent members on behalf of the president.

The department will also exercise control over: implementation of presidential decrees by the executive bodies and officials; over the activities of the executive bodies, enterprises, establishments and organizations on implementation of social and economic policy; and over activities of Russian diplomatic missions, trade offices and other establishments abroad.

The department will carry out examinations and consider appeals submitted to it by individuals, enterprises and organizations.

The Control Department has the right to demand from the federal executive bodies, enterprises, establishments and organizations, regardless of the form of property, all information required for its examinations .

If a violation is revealed during an investigation the department can submit its recommendations to the heads of the executive bodies for consideration within ten days.

Yeltsin Signs Law Strengthening War on Crime

LD2505185094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1738 GMT 25 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow May 25—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree today approving the federal programme for the strengthening of the struggle against crime for 1994-1995 which was earlier adopted by the security council.

The implementation of this programme envisages consolidation of efforts by the law enforcement bodies, state institutions and society as a whole, a spokesman for the

press service of the security council of the Russian Federation told ITAR-TASS on Wednesday.

The document approved by the president provides for the unification of economic, political, legal, educational and organisational measures aimed at combining the interests of an individual citizen and society.

The top priority direction in the struggle against crime is the establishment of corresponding legislative, and organisational and legal foundations, measures for the prevention of crime, and stopping crimes against life, health and property of citizens.

Special attention is paid to checking malfeasance, economic and organised crime, and offenses in the armed forces of the Russian Federation.

Yeltsin Reform-Oriented Edicts Lauded

PM2505132594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 May 94 p 1

[Yuriy Gladkevich article: "Russian Production Tired of Waiting for Reforms. Russian Federation Presidential Edicts Initiate Them"]

[Text] A lot of water has passed under the bridge since Russia was declared a land of reform. Whole oceans have flowed by while our legislators have waffled. The Russian Government (in one form or another) has repeatedly attempted to channel these reforms in the main direction—that of improving the economy, boosting production, strengthening the country's power, and enhancing the people's prosperity. But, alas, the planned results have not been achieved.

Throughout these years many Russian and foreign specialists, assessing the Russian leadership's practical policy, have repeatedly noted its contradictory and inconsistent nature in the economic sphere. Industrial production, particularly in relation to high-tech and labor-intensive output and to sectors ensuring our economic and defense might, has steadily fallen, depressed by various crises.

The country is getting close to a situation where the economy, as the head of state recognizes, is on the verge of collapse.

Only one thing can save it—slowly transferring the reforms to the production sphere. Under these conditions the action taken by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who has signed a package of highly important edicts (on the abolition of quotas and the licensing of goods for export; on certain issues of fiscal policy; on the reform of state enterprises; on additional measures to normalize transactions; on the restoration of tax payment discipline; and on the consolidation of the Highways Fund into the Russian Federation budget) may be of decisive importance.

In the opinion of experts, the first five of these edicts should have a decisive impact on the situation in Russia. The lifting of export quotas, for instance, should stimulate the further liberalization of Russian exports and remove the administrative barriers in the way of exporter enterprises. But this does not mean that the mechanism for monitoring their activity will be destroyed. The system of foreign exchange controls will continue to operate, and the institution of specialized exporters will be maintained and could even be strengthened in the future. Quite clearly, enterprises themselves can count on a lowering of export tariffs, which will have a favorable impact on their business.

The second edict instructs the Russian Federation Government to submit draft laws to the Federal Assembly which would reduce the number of taxes and make it possible to lower the main taxes—income tax and value-added tax—by 10-20 percent on average. This measure is very necessary, since enterprises are being crushed by the burden of taxation, which makes it harder for their output to compete in the world market, rendering it inordinately expensive. This edict also establishes concessionary taxation for enterprises using foreign capital and engaged in the production sphere.

Sanctions have also been tightened up against enterprises owned by the federal government which violate the state's rights as their owner. Currently the leaders of certain state enterprises are very actively manipulating funds and budget resources for their own interests—for instance, federal appropriations are "put to work" on the interbank market, and the profits go straight into the pockets of the tricksters.

Enterprises discovered to be acting in this way and not due for privatization will be immediately redesignated as treasury-funded [kazennyye] (the most stringent form of state ownership).

The measures to normalize transactions envisage the introduction of strict chronological sequence [kalendarnaya ocherednost] being followed for payments from current accounts. If, say, an enterprise has no funds in its ruble accounts, it is obliged to convert money from its foreign-currency accounts and settle up with the other party. I think that even if this measure does not end the growth in mutual nonpayments between enterprises—which is forcing many of them into extremely difficult positions—it will at least stop the problem getting any worse.

For entirely understandable reasons, the military are particularly interested in whether these edicts will be able to improve the situation in the defense industry. It is no secret that, for various reasons, the military department sometimes cannot even afford the output of military-industrial complex enterprises, and it owes the defense industry a lot of money. As for mutual nonpayments between enterprises—it is hard to calculate just who owes whom how much. Add to this the pressure of the tax burden and it is clear that if this situation persists for a while longer, we run the risk of witnessing the wholesale bankruptcy of Russian arms, combat hardware, and systems producers. Almost 80 percent of military-industrial complex enterprises have already reached this point, and the number of potential bankruptcies is growing. We must assume that the signing of the aforesaid edicts will improve the condition of the severely ailing defense sector. But specialists believe that a

full recovery will only come about when the first set of "healing" edicts is backed up by new ones.

In complete agreement with this, it seems, is Aleksandr Lifshits, leader of the president's group of experts, who stated that the main task is to keep inflation reasonable and switch the reforms to the sphere of production—the very sphere that forms the foundations of our power, the improvement of the economy, and the implementation of the reform program as a whole. The Russian Government, we understand, has so far received only an incomplete "guidance document." But even this is already a considerable normative basis for stimulating the reform process—a process which the country's parliament was, regrettably, unable to come up with in good time.

Yeltsin Edict on Federal Road Fund

PM2505104594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 May 94 First Edition p 4

[Russian Federation president's edict no. 1008 "On the Russian Federation's Federal Road Fund"]

[Text] With a view to stepping up monitoring of the use of state financial resources and in accordance with the Russian Federation president's 22 December 1993 edict no. 2268 "on the formation of the Russian Federation republican budget and mutual relations with the budgets of the components of the Russian Federation in 1994" I decree:

1. That the Russian Federation Government include in the drafts of the federal budget as of 1994 the revenue and expenditure of the Russian Federation Federal Road Fund as a separate item.

2. That it be stipulated that in calculating the tax on the sale of fuel and lubricants the turnovers of manufacturing enterprises and also of other businesses selling output outside the CIS states at prices close to world prices be excluded from the taxable base.

3. That it be recommended to the organs of legislative (representative) power of the components of the Russian Federation that they consolidate the territorial road funds within the budgets of the components of the Russian Federation while retaining their specific purpose.

4. That the Russian Federation Government submit within a month for the examination of the Federal Assembly State Duma a draft legislative act prepared in accordance with the provisions of this Edict.

5. That it be stipulated that this Edict operates until the adoption of the relevant legislative act.

[signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin, Moscow, Kremlin, 23 May 1994.

Zhirinovskiy Party Assails IZVESTIYA Article

LD2505175794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1422 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] The faction of the Russian Liberal-Democratic Party of the State Duma expressed sharp protest against the article by Yegor Gaydar "Stavka na negodayev" "Stake on Villains" published in the newspaper IZVESTIYA on May 17 in which the leader of the Russia's Choice faction stated that all "classic signs of a fascist party, ideology, and personality exactly apply to Zhirinovskiy and his Liberal Democratic Party."

A statement of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] made public in the State Duma on Wednesday draws attention to the fact that Gaydar addressed these and many other insults to deputies of the Liberal Democratic Party faction, all members of the party and 12 million voters who cast ballots for this party in elections December 12, 1993.

Gaydar's reforms, which turned out to be unsuccessful in conditions of a socialist political economy "made 90 percent of Russian citizens miserable and suck all blood out of the body of the great power during "the shock therapy" period, authors of the LDP statement note. "As for your ethnic policy it would be better if you leave the State Duma and move to live to the Caucasus or Central Asia—any Russian living in these regions would be glad to exchange apartments with you," the statement of the Duma's LDP faction transferred to INTERFAX says.

The faction also believes that the intensive activities of Yegor Gaydar aimed at retaining power, will finally lead to "Russia becoming the first multi-party fascist state in the world."

Six Deputies Quit Liberal Democratic Union

LD2505191894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1648 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Six State Duma deputies gave official notice Wednesday that they were leaving the Liberal Democratic Union of December 12. This decision was taken by five former members of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party—Viktor Kobelev, Aleksandr Pronin, Vladimir Novikov, Vladimir Borzyuk and Tatyana Bulgakova as well as Deputy Andrey Volkov.

Aleksandr Pronin told INTERFAX they had decided to leave because of disagreements with the line taken by the Union's leader Boris Fedorov and also the desire not to be in the same group as Andrey Makarov.

Another serious reason for the exit of the six was the fact that the leadership of the "Decembrists" had kept secret from ordinary members the fact that the leadership had met recently with President Boris Yeltsin and were therefore representing no-one but themselves.

"If Zhirinovskiy is openly practicing deceit, then the leaders of the Decembrists are doing it behind people's backs," said Pronin.

He said that the six deputies would not join any other factions but rather form an autonomous deputy group.

Ingushetia Faults Temporary Administration

MK2505103594 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 25 May 94 p 2

[Natalya Gorodetskaya report under the "Conflict" rubric: "Russian Federation President Urges Ingushis and Ossetians Not to Let Themselves Be Provoked. Ingushetia Accuses Temporary Administration of Inaction"]

[Text] Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian president's press secretary, circulated a statement yesterday regarding extremist statements and actions that have become more frequent in the Ossetia-Ingushetia conflict zone. The statement says that extremists on both sides are trying to involve in the conflict the Russian soldiers and officers performing a peace-keeping mission. "The Russian authorities do not intend to tolerate the crude violations of human rights and legality in the zone subject to the state of emergency rule," the statement points out. Urging the citizens of North Ossetia and Ingushetia "to resist provocations," Boris Yeltsin draws attention to the fact that the law and order forces in the state of emergency zone have all the necessary powers and equipment to suppress manifestations of extremism and to protect civilians from violence, the statement says.

In the meantime, Ingushetia President Ruslan Aushev's chief of staff Ruslan Pliyev has stated that it is the Temporary Administration, or rather its inaction, that is to blame for the worsened situation in the state of emergency zone. In his opinion, the taking of six Ingush hostages by Ossetians on 19 May is a logical consequence of this inaction. In his opinion, the leaders of the Temporary Administration in the state of emergency zone should be replaced, and its headquarters should be located on neutral territory rather than in the capital of North Ossetia, Vladikavkaz.

The Ingushetia president's press service addressed another statement to "Ostankino." The statement says: "People have been held hostages for the fifth day running in conditions of constant threat to their lives. In the meantime the central mass media and the "Ostankino" channel have been relaying various reports from North Ossetia, but there has not been even a word about Ingushi hostages." Glossing over facts and one-sided information, in the view of the press service, does not promote stability in the state of emergency zone.

Media Issues

TV, Radio League Set Up

LD2505213394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1437 GMT 25 May 94

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow, 25 May—A decision to set up a Television and Radio League [Liga televideniya I radio] was taken today by representatives of over 100 all-Russian and regional state and independent radio and TV companies. Anatoliy Lysenko, general director of the All-Russia Radio and TV Company, was elected chairman of the body while it is being established.

The league will be a body of the Union of Journalists of Russia. In an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, Union Chairman Vsevolod Bogdanov voiced the hope that the league will be able to exert considerable influence on the framing of legislation in the TV and radio broadcasting field, will become a collective body defending the interests of the "electronic" press, and will enable a number of topical professional issues to be resolved. At the first organizational meeting, Grigoriy Shevelev, Ostankino's first deputy chairman, was instructed to take charge of the work of setting up an academy of radio and television. Other areas of the league's activities were also outlined.

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Explains Thinking Behind New Economic Package

PM2505180194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 May 94 First Edition p 1

[Undated announcement by Russian president's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov: "In the Spirit of Civil Accord"]

[Text] In connection with the signing of a package of economic edicts encouraging activity by the government and legislative organs in the sphere of increasing the pace of economic reform, Russian President B.N. Yeltsin has sent letters to State Duma and Federation Council deputies explaining the motives behind the presidential initiative in the economic sphere.

The president points out to the deputies that his actions arise both out of actual constitutional prerogatives and out of the Treaty on Social Accord. In his letter B.N. Yeltsin informs the deputies that, acting in the spirit of civil accord, immediately after signing the package of economic edicts he instructed the government to submit draft laws based on the edicts to the deputies for their consideration. So the edicts, insofar as they impinge on the jurisdiction of the Federal Assembly, will remain valid until the relevant federal laws are adopted.

Moreover, on 24 May the president proposed that V.S. Chernomyrdin, I.P. Rybkin, V.F. Shumeyko, and B.N. Topornin, chairman of the Public Chamber under the president, immediately set up a working group representing a wide range of public and social interests in order to stimulate the speediest adoption of amendments to tax legislation.

[signed] Vyacheslav Kostikov, Russian president's press secretary.

Package of Recent Edicts on Economy Pondered

PM2505135594 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 May 94 p 1

[Vsevolod Orlov report: "The Economy Should Be Economical. Taxpayer! Here Is a Package for You. It Is Hard To Resist Reporting on the Package of Edicts Recently Signed by the Russian President"]

[Text] They presuppose the following:

1. The abolition of quotas and licenses for export shipments by all enterprises, as well as concessions on export duties in addition to those laid down by Russian legislation (naturally this does not apply to interstate agreements concluded previously).

2. The government's submission to the Federal Assembly of draft laws reducing the number of taxes, lowering the rates of basic taxes—profits and value-added tax—by 10-20 percent, and prescribing preferential taxation for enterprises involving foreign capital employed exclusively in the production sphere. What is more, there are to be changes in the taxation of individuals.

3. The creation of "state-funded" enterprises, in other words enterprises whose leaders have limited rights but bear full personal responsibility for the activity of the enterprises in their charge. In this connection there will no longer be federal enterprises in full state ownership, while those already created will either be eliminated or turned into "state-funded houses." Production units which are ineffectually managed and not liable to privatization will provide an additional base for the creation of "state-funded enterprises."

4. The establishment of chronological reporting [kalendarnaya otchetnost] on payments from enterprises' current payment accounts and the creation of a federal bills of exchange chamber.

5. The introduction of strict responsibility for tax evaders: The first violation incurs a heavy fine, the second results in the elimination of the enterprise.

The adopted edicts may quite easily be regarded as a step toward administrative control of the economy. But has anyone said that Russia does not need those kind of steps? Triumphant privatization reports do of course provide inspiration for fresh achievements. However, state enterprises also produce output and, incidentally, workers at these enterprises have the worst social protection of all, creating a heightened danger of strikes in the state sector. State-funded enterprises may elicit bad associations with Stalinist methods of managing industry. But there must nevertheless be a clear distinction between concerns and corporations that have, as a result of privatization, legalized the position of monopolized feudal estates and state enterprises. The latter should come under tight state control. That is the reality of a mixed economy.

The president's edicts on the whole give rise to the sense of attempting to cut the Gordian knot of Russian economic management with albeit several blows. Whether good, bad, or mediocre, clear and comprehensible rules of play have to be established some day. The tax situation is abnormal—so here is legislation which precludes supplementary interpretation and here are punitive measures to be applied against those who do not give a damn about it. I must particularly point out that tough measures are being taken against taxpayers at the same time as guarantees of an improvement in the tax climate (although it is of course better for there to be an improvement first and then tough measures). There is a problem involved in granting export concessions, quotas, and licenses with unclear regulations that permit heaps of violations—all three should be abolished (I think that certain countries that live off reexporting Russian resources are becoming somewhat jumpy). There is an interesting aspect to the problem of payment defaults: A debtor's ruble account is empty but his hard-currency account is full. There may be a solution: In that situation the hard currency should be immediately converted and the debts paid....

I would very much like to write the words "and so on," but that is regrettably where the adopted measures stop.

Edicts on Economy Likely To Create Fresh Problems

PM2505142794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 May 94 First Edition p 1

[Vladimir Kucherenko report: "Russia's President Has Signed Six Edicts Aimed at Accelerating Reforms"]

[Text] In the opinion of A. Livshits, leader of the group of experts under the Russian Federation president, these documents mark a switch of the reformers' main effort to the production sphere and the imposition of order in the matter of mutual payments.

Many difficulties lie in store for us here, however. In the abolition of export quotas and licenses, for example. Such privileges really do not exist in the developed world, since everyone there has equal rights to foreign economic activity—pay only the customs duties that are laid down for everyone. In Russia, however, many programs at federal level, and particularly at regional level, are funded exclusively out of the duty-free export of valuable raw materials. This is how local authorities and even giants at federal level secure currency for their projects. Now all their calculations have been canceled out. This means that we cannot avoid another struggle at the top, opposition, and lobbying to repeal this edict. All the more so because the president already tried to impose order in the granting of foreign economic privileges last year—an attempt that failed then.

Let us take the edict "On Some Questions of Tax Policy." We can only welcome the termination of the practice of granting privileges which make holes in the budget, the lightening of the tax burden, and the transfer of sectoral nonbudget funds to the federal budget, under strict control. Here is the rub, however—how can this be combined with the figures for big state expenditure, which requires big taxes? The authorities probably reckon on collecting more taxes, since entrepreneurs and industrialists will breathe a sigh of relief and will stop evading their payment. But our tax service is far from perfect, and so a new round of budget battles cannot be ruled out.

Those who wrested privileges from the government and who hold nonbudget funds that are not under the control of the center—sectoral and regional lobbies—will not surrender their positions without a fight either. They have a great arsenal of weapons: Strike threats, moans about the deplorable state of industry, refusals to pay money into the

federal treasury, surges of separatism. It seems that the implementation of this edict will be a serious test of the organization and strength of Russian central authority.

A similar "trial of strength" will also be provided by the document "On Additional Measures To Normalize Transactions and To Strengthen Payment Discipline...." For, as the Central Bank admits, we have no laws today that demand rigid discipline in payment for goods and services. The system of control over enterprises' compliance with financial discipline has also been destroyed. It is possible to recall the sad fate that befell the edict on the introduction of promissory notes. The demand for currency accounts to be used to clear debts in the absence of working capital treads on the corns of those same powerful lobbies that have plastered industry with a mass of commercial-middleman structures.

Strong resistance will also be elicited by the edicts on ranking "naughty" enterprises with the state's controlling packages as rigidly controlled state enterprises. For a significant stratum of managers who are accustomed to dealing with state property as though it were their own private property has been formed in the country in the space of a few years. They also learned a long time ago how to avoid paying taxes by spreading enterprises' funds out among several bank accounts, and the edict on restoring discipline of tax payments could put an end to those liberties.

So we could be witnessing normal economic measures, delayed by two years, marking the start of a tricky political campaign.

Military & Space Issues

High Quality of Weapons Industry Noted at Exhibition

LD2505163594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1537 GMT 25 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Vladimir May 25—"Russia has not lost its leading positions in the production of firearms and hand guns. We have something to show and of what to be proud," Major-General Nikolay Zlenko, representative of the general staff of the armed forces of the Russian Federation, who arrived today in Vladimir at the military exhibition as a member of a government delegation, told ITAR-TASS on Wednesday.

According to the general, the high rating of Russian firearms is confirmed by a keen interest to them shown by buyers from 17 countries of the world including the United States, Britain, Germany and Israel.

Despite the difficulties in financing the Russian military-industrial complex, the defense ministry of the Russian Federation is still interested in advertising its products and the permanent participation in exhibitions of armaments and materiel, the major- general pointed out.

In reply to a question by ITAR-TASS about participation of the defense ministry in the conversion of defense industry to peace-time production, Nikolay Zlenko said that this participation was reflected in dozens of displayed exhibits.

According to the general, the defense ministry has become a sponsor of a series of developments of hunting rifles on the basis of a Kalashnikov submachine gun, in particular a "saiga" carbine.

The defense ministry, Nikolay Zlenko said, also financed the designing of a rifle for a farmer "of-93", various kinds of ammunition including for a gas pistol.

This work, the general noted, will be continued with due account for maintaining of the military potential and mobilizing possibilities of defense enterprises in Russia.

Defense Spokesman: Troop Unrest if Budget Not Increased

LD2505205294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1830 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Major General Vladimir Osadchiy, a key figure in the Main Military Budget and Financing Directorate of Russia's Defence Ministry, said that the social aspect has become decisive in the reform of Russia's armed forces.

Osadchiy believes that if the military budget is implemented in its present form then half of all servicemen will not be able to receive their pay within the term set by law. Two to three months without pay would lead inevitably lead to a worsening of the already difficult situation among the troops.

Tight Money Imperils Armament Development Programs

PM2505160194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 May 94 p 2

[Nikolay Burbyga report: "Russia's New Armaments Under Threat"]

[Text] In the opinion of First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin, in 1993 the Defense Ministry managed, despite the difficult financial situation, to make headway in implementing a number of very important priorities in military-political policy endorsed by the president and the Russian Security Council.

This applies first and foremost to the qualitative improvement of a number of elements of the strategic nuclear forces, including battle management systems, communications systems and automated command-and-control systems at the tactical level, several types of precision weapons, electronic warfare systems, servicemen's personal gear and equipment, and the creation of a multirole fighter-bomber.

However, the results of all this work are under threat in 1994 because of the drastically deteriorating situation as regards the financing of defense needs. As your IZVESTIYA correspondent was told in conversation by

specialists from the Defense Ministry Committee for Military-Political Policy, if current financial trends are maintained a complete stoppage of work on creating new armaments systems can be expected. Resources today no longer suffice even to pay the wages in scientific research institutes and design bureaus carrying out defense orders.

Defense Industry Unions Threaten Brief Stoppage 9 Jun

MK2505110194 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 25 May 94 p 2

[Andrey Nikolayev report under the "Threats" rubric: "Military-Industrial Enterprises Could Go Bust. Defense Sector To Mark 9 June With Whistles"]

[Text] Defense sector trade union chairmen have sent an appeal to State Duma and Federal Assembly deputies expressing their "concern over repeated cuts in the expenditure on weapons and military hardware procurements, military research and development in the draft federal budget for 1994." In the opinion of the trade union leaders, the government should have "canceled the state order that is already being carried out" altogether because there will be just enough money to repay debts for products already manufactured and to operate weapons and equipment. In this case, however, around 80 percent of defense enterprises will go bankrupt, 1.4 million workers will be laid off, and it will take around 30 trillion rubles to pay unemployment benefits alone. The spending cuts and the cancellation of the state order, the trade union activists think, will bring about a situation where "the country will be stripped of its means of defense and will have to procure armaments and military hardware abroad."

Given that, the trade union chairmen of the aviation, defense, general-purpose engineering, and radioelectronic industries wrote: "The workers collectives insist that the financing for weapons and military hardware procurements and military research and development should stay at the level established by the 1994 state order," and also that credit lines be opened for conversion programs and measures taken to increase the budget revenues "by creating incentives for production growth, fully collecting taxes, and organizing the sales of weapons, military hardware, and civilian products to foreign countries in the most efficient fashion with producer enterprises being directly involved in such sales."

According to information received by your SEGODNYA correspondent at the Central Council of the All-Russia Trade Union of Defense Industry Workers, the trade union executive's decision to suspend the production of civilian and non-food consumer goods at the enterprises for 5-10 minutes on 9 June "to support demands that wages be paid and jobs retained" still remains valid. All trade unions of the defense industry have given their backing to the action during which sirens, whistles, and so forth will be switched on at military-industrial enterprises. It is expected that on 9 June rallies and meetings will take place at many defense enterprises to discuss whether an all-Russia strike in the military- industrial sector should be called in the near future.

Cosmos-2281 Satellite Launched From Plesetsk

LD2505121794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1140 GMT 25 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS freelance correspondent Semen Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 25 May—A Tsiklon-3 booster rocket carrying the satellite Cosmos-2281 was launched by Russia's military space forces from the Plesetsk cosmodrome at 1115 hours today.

Major-General Anatoliy Ovchinnikov, commander of the Plesetsk cosmodrome, told ITAR-TASS that the launch (the 110th since 24 June 1977, when the first booster rocket of this type was launched from Plesetsk) was carried out successfully.

Fails To Go Into Orbit

LD2605073594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0630 GMT 26 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS freelance correspondent Semen Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 26 May—The Cosmos-2281 satellite, launched yesterday from Plesetsk cosmodrome by the Tsiklon-3 booster-rocket, has not been placed into orbit. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this at the press center of the Russian Military Space Forces this morning.

The launch was being made in the interests of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation. An interdepartmental commission has been set up to investigate the reasons for the failed launch.

Drops Into East Siberian Sea

LD2605102194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0956 GMT 26 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Semyon Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—The Cosmos 2281 satellite fired off with a Tsiklon-3 three stage booster from the Plesetsk cosmodrome on Wednesday, failed to come into orbit.

ITAR-TASS learnt at the press centre of Russian Space Military Forces that the switch-off of the propulsion unit and the separation of the third stage were not registered.

According to calculations, the satellite as well as the second and the third stages of the booster dropped in the area of the East Siberian Sea where the fall of the second stage had been planned.

The launching was made in the interests of the Russian Defence Ministry. An interdepartmental commission has been set up to examine possible reasons for the failure.

Regional Affairs

Kuril Islanders Want To Break Away From Sakhalin Region

LD2505122194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1047 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Residents of the South Kuril Islands frustrated over economic hardships now contemplate the possibility of breaking away from the Sakhalin Region, the strike committee of a large fish factory on Kunashir Island says.

In a message to the Russian leadership, the committee has drawn attention to the factory's plight, run-away prices and endemic pay delays.

It asked President Yeltsin to appoint his own representative to the Kurils.

Obninsk Nuclear Research Center Faces Shutdown

MK2505122094 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 25 May 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "What's New In Russia" rubric: "Settling Scores Before Nuclear Reactor"]

[Text] The fire-fighting crew presented an ultimatum to the chiefs of the Obninsk Nuclear Research Center: Either they pay the two months' arrears in wages or the fire-fighters decline responsibility for protecting the nuclear reactors of the physics and power engineering institute. Specialists think an unscheduled shutdown of the reactors could entail unpredictable consequences. The "Obninskgorgaz," to which the nuclear research center is also in debt, has threatened to stop gas supplies.

Cash Problems Beset Novosibirsk Oblast Defense Enterprises

PM2505144194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 May 94 p 1

[Aleksandr Veklich report: "Defense Sector on Its Knees"]

[Text] Novosibirsk—Sixteen of the largest enterprises in Novosibirsk Oblast have closed down either partially or completely. While carefully fulfilling state orders and retaining the mobilization capacity required for them, the Novosibirsk defense sector has still not received payments of 41 billion rubles due to it from the budget.

According to Anatoliy Yakovlev, chief of the Novosibirsk Oblast Administration's Machine Building and Defense Sectors of Industry Department, around 70 appeals have been sent to top organs of power. So far they have met with silence. Enterprise trade unions are planning a protest for 9 June.

Bashkortostan Signs Power-Sharing Treaty With Moscow

LD2505183794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1652 GMT 25 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow May 25 TASS—Bashkortostan became on Wednesday the second republic after its neighbouring Tatarstan to sign a power-sharing treaty with Moscow.

The signing ceremony crowned a final round of negotiations between Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin and Bashkir President Murtaza Rakhimov.

The package of signed documents includes agreements on economic cooperation, on foreign trade, on sharing powers in defence industries and state property ownership, on crime fighting and environment protection among others.

Drafted agreements on budget and banking relations remained unsigned as the parties failed to reach compromise in these fields.

Yeltsin Late May Trip To Tatarstan Previewed

LD2505194794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1905 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] The Russian president's visit to Tatarstan scheduled for May 30-31 is a planned trip the head of state makes to various regions of Russia, Presidential Aide Anatoly Korabelschikov told Interfax. He pointed out that after Moscow and Kazan signed the Mutual Power Delegation Treaty, this visit had no political underlying.

According to Korabelschikov, the president will pay special attention to bringing on-line the motor plant damaged by a fire. The plant belongs to the association KamAZ, one of the biggest truck-manufacturing associations in Russia. During his visit, Yeltsin plans to examine principally new engines designed there, in particular the engines of new city buses.

The president is also interested in the creation of a financial and production group by KamAZ, Togliatti car-making plant and Avtovazbank. Such groups created in various regions of Russia are called to stimulate the development of top-priority branches of the economy, Korabelschikov said.

In Kazan, Yeltsin plans to meet with the Tatar leadership and visit a number of agricultural enterprises.

Pacific Fleet To Transfer Nuclear Waste Tanker

OW2605044194 Vladivostok Radio Vladivostok Network in Russian 0220 GMT 20 May 94

[From the "Lunch Hour Break" program]

[Text] It seems that residents of Bolshoy Kamen will be able to heave a sigh of relief—the Pacific Fleet intends to transfer the run-down TNT-5 tanker containing liquid radioactive waste to a less populated location, possibly Pavlovsk bay, where a whole complex of measures to prolong the tanker's life will begin. However, it is possible that a different place will be chosen, where the dilapidated vessel will await completion of the construction of purification facilities, which may also take quite a long time.

International Affairs

Appeal to UN for Support on Crimea Issue

LD2505210094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1554 GMT 25 May 94

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations, 25 May—Ukraine is calling upon the United Nations to support its possible actions in Crimea "to ensure unconditionally the territorial integrity of the state." Thus runs a letter from Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali which was distributed today as a General Assembly and Security Council document.

"On 20 May 1994, the Supreme Rada of the Republic of Crimea adopted a decision on re-enforcing the constitution of the Republic of Crimea of 6 May 1992. This act is aimed at changing the legal status of the autonomous republic as a component part of Ukraine," it indicates the document points out. Having described these actions by the Crimean parliament as "a violation of the Constitution of Ukraine," A. Zlenko stated that "a threat is thereby being created to peace and stability in the region and in Europe as a whole."

The minister expressed the hope that "the UN secretary general will personally show understanding and support" for the actions of the government of Ukraine in "averting the possible negative consequences of the anti-constitutional decision adopted by the Supreme Rada of Crimea." In the event of a deterioration in the situation, Ukraine reserves the right to take all the necessary measures to provide for the territorial integrity of the state, the document stresses.

Defense Minister Holds NATO Cooperation Talks in Brussels

LD2505190594 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1550 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Kiev [no dateline as received]—UNIAN has already reported that Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy is continuing his official visit to the NATO headquarters in Brussels. Ukraine's Defense Ministry press service has announced that Vitaliy Radetskyy spoke at a conference of North Atlantic Council member countries' defense ministers today. The Ukrainian defense minister emphasized, in particular, that "overcoming artificial isolation from Europe and returning Ukraine to the range of leading European states" was one of the most important tasks in Ukraine's military political course.

Vitaliy Radetskyy also said that Ukraine was in favor of creating a versatile all-European system of security on the basis of existing international institutions. Ukraine's immediate membership in these structures will provide the necessary external guarantees of its national security. The Ukrainian defense minister pointed out that Ukraine did not see any reasons why CIS countries could not join the "Partnership for Peace" program. "It would also be desirable if Russia were among the partnership members. The footing, however, should undoubtedly be equal for all," said the Ukrainian defense minister.

The press service of Ukraine's Defense Ministry reported that Vitaliy Radetskyy met U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry and David Collenette, Canadian national defense minister, and discussed issues of military cooperation and developments in Crimea with them. The Defense Ministry's press service added that both William Perry and David Collenette expressed concern at the escalation of tension in Crimea, highly commended Ukraine's balanced and constructive position on normalizing the situation, and confirmed respect for the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Also today, the Ukrainian defense minister met George Joulwan, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander in Europe.

UK's Hurd on EU Ties, Nuclear Issue

LD2505162494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1541 GMT 25 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vitaliy Makarchev]

[Text] Kiev 25 May TASS—The implementation by Ukraine of the international agreement which obliges it to transfer its nuclear weapons to Russia is a separate issue and must not be connected with other problems, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said.

During his talks with Ukrainian top officials Hurd said that ten days ago EU [European Union] leaders discussed ways to expand ties between Brussels and Kiev and ensure control over of Ukraine's's part of the Soviet nuclear arsenal.

Despite attempts by some EU countries to interconnect these two issues, the European Council decided not to condition the signing of a comprehensive cooperation agreement with Ukraine on the full withdrawal of nuclear weapons from its territory, Hurd said. He also called Kiev to join as soon as possible the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Ukraine's participation in the treaty is very important not because the European Union is suspicious of Ukraine, but because it is much more concerned about the reaction to the current state of affairs from the countries seeking to obtain nuclear weapons, he said.

He said the EU believes the assurances received from Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and his government that the agreement on the withdrawal of nuclear weapons will be strictly observed. He emphasised that neither Britain nor the European Union link the withdrawal of nuclear weapons with any of the existing problem.

Hurd called on the Ukrainian Parliament to give guarantees of the implementation of the agreement. Parliament Chairman Aleksandr Moroz assured Hurd that the lawmakers are strongly against nuclear weapons in Ukraine.

The British foreign secretary noted that there is only one way to solve the nuclear problem in Ukraine—strictly observe and implement the agreement on the withdrawal of nuclear weapons.

Sevastopol Stumbling Block at Black Sea Fleet Talks

LD2505201494 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] During the two days of negotiations the Ukrainian and Russian delegations have never reached a mutually agreed decision on the Black Sea Fleet. After the consultations of the heads of the Ukrainian and Russian Governments with Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk, the first variant of a joint document appeared under a conventional title agreement between the governments of Ukraine and the Russian Federation on the first stage of settling the Black Sea Fleet issues. It is unclear as yet what the second, the third, and the subsequent stages will be, and how many stages at all are to follow.

Experts worked up this agreement. However, none of the sides was satisfied with the last variant, despite the fact that the delegations were trying to find a compromise solution.

According to Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Shmarov, the stands have been brought closer to each other. However, there are key points that we failed to solve. Only mutual respect for the laws of both countries can lead to a concrete result, he pointed out.

Sevastopol became a stumbling block. The Russian side refers to it in the document as the main base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, claiming its right to the whole city, where there will be no place for Ukrainian sailors and ships.

Ukraine is ready to grant Russia the base in Sevastopol; but it does not agree to give up the whole city for the base. Besides, as Ukraine's Acting Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy said, Russia insists that the entire shore-based infrastructure should be passed to it, something Ukraine cannot agree to, which is only natural.

Unexpected for the Ukrainian side was also the solution of the issue on dividing the ships that came up at the previous meeting in Sevastopol. This has been reported by Colonel General Ivan Bizhan, Ukrainian deputy defense minister. The Russians declared that Ukraine had already received a certain part of the ships apportioned to it, proceeding at this point from the very understated data on the current quantitative composition of the Black Sea Fleet. With such an apportioning offered by Russia, Ukraine will receive only a minimum of the ships and will be deprived of the entire shore-based infrastructure. In the end, it will cease to be the master of its own land.

Despite a number of nonessential differences, the delegations again took their seats at the negotiating table today.

National Affairs

Kravchuk on Four Stages for Solution of Crimean Issue

LD2505214094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2020 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] [no dateline as received] On 25 May Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk visited the manuscripts department of the Taras Shevchenko Institute of Literature. During his meeting with employees of the institute he said it has become possible to split the solution of the Crimean issue into four stages: The first three envisage the division of the Black Sea Fleet, the determining of the sites for its bases, and the solution of the social and economic problems facing the peninsula. In the fourth and final stage, political arrangements should be worked out for settling all the problems around Crimea. "I always raise this question: Are we with Russia or under Russia?" Leonid Kravchuk asserted.

Touching on today's political situation in Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk said that in political life, unfortunately, there is a repetition of something that occurred in 1990.

Foreign Ministry Vows 'All Necessary Measures' To Be Taken

AU2505120794 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 24 May 94 pp 1, 2

[Undated "Statement by the Press Center of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs"]

[Text] On 20 May 1994, the Crimean Supreme Council adopted the law "On the Restoration of the Constitutional Principles of the Crimean Republic's Statehood" having thereby made an attempt to restore the Crimean Constitution in its 6 May 1992 variant. This law is unconstitutional and illegal. It leads to an exacerbation of interethnic tension on the peninsula and in Ukraine as a whole and raises the question of the legal status of the Crimean Republic as a constituent part of Ukraine. This creates a direct threat to Ukraine's territorial integrity and peace and stability in the region.

In this connection, Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs A.M. Zlenko sent letters to the UN secretary general, the chairman of the Security Council, the chairman of the CSCE, NATO's general secretary, leaders of other international organizations, and ministers of foreign affairs of foreign countries. In his letters, the head of Ukraine's external political department stresses, in particular, that this illegal decision, provoked by the irresponsible course pursued by the present Crimean leadership and aimed at undermining Ukraine's constitutional power and its territorial integrity cannot be qualified in any other terms than an open attempt on the part of separatist forces to weaken the internal political stability in Ukraine and provoke tension in the Ukrainian- Russian relations. This creates a threat to peace and stability in the region and in the whole of Europe, something which may have far-reaching negative consequences, in view of the present complicated situation in this part of the continent.

Today those European countries, which are participants in the CSCE, have admitted the exceptional importance unconditionally to maintain and strengthen the principles of territorial integrity and inviolability of existing borders, as a guarantee for European peace and security. Such separatist aspirations on the part of the leadership of the Crimean Republic may result in further erosion of these fundamental principles underlying European stability. In the case of a further escalation of the situation as a result of

the irresponsible steps by the extremist forces in the Crimea, Ukraine reserves the right to take all the necessary measures for an unconditional protection of the state's territorial integrity in conformity with its constitution and current legislation and with an adherence to the norms of international law.

Minister's Appeal to Crimea Internal Affairs Bodies

LD2505224394 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2145 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Kiev, 25 May—Ukrainian Internal Affairs Minister Andriy Vasylyshyn has delivered an address to the leadership and all personnel of internal affairs agencies in Crimea.

The address reads, in particular: "The non-performance by the Crimean autonomy's authorities of the Ukrainian presidential directives and their deliberate disregard for Ukraine's Constitution and legislation are causing tension in the situation on the peninsula. All this is increasing pressure on the personnel of internal affairs agencies".

The Ukrainian Internal Affairs Ministry's collegium regrets that Crimean militiamen have to work "under difficult conditions which were artificially created," the minister points out. "We hope that the necessary decisions will be taken in the very near future, with the help of people's deputies of Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea, to stabilize the situation in Crimea."

The minister's appeal makes the following requests:

"To convey to members of staff our certainty that the bodies of internal affairs in Crimea will further remain within the single structure of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine;

"To remain calm, confident, and loyal to their oath, to prevent the illegal use of arms, to treat citizens with respect, to strictly abide by laws when detaining citizens and making them answerable, and to prevent violations of the administrative legislation;

"To step up the struggle against crime and its most organized forms, to restore order in the streets and in public places, and in so doing to pay special attention to instructing special duty squads at a high professional level;

"To establish efficient interaction with the Main Directorate of the Security Service of Ukraine in Crimea, the procurator's office, the subunits of the National Guard and military units, and with other departments with the aim of improving adherence to law and order and legality in Crimea.

"Today peace and accord and citizens' security in Crimea are in your hands. Do not let yourselves get involved in political games."

Crimea's Meshkov Sees Hope for Relations With Ukraine

LD2505173894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1701 GMT 25 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Karmalito]

[Text] Simferopol 25 May TASS—Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov welcomed the latest developments in relations between the Crimea and Ukraine as hope-inspiring.

In an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS on Wednesday [25 May], Meshkov said that the road to a compromise lies between the search for mutual understanding through bilateral negotiations and destructive policy pursued by Kiev.

Attempts by certain Ukrainian circles to provoke confrontation in the Crimea have failed. The negotiation process has been set in motion in order to bring together the positions of the two sides and find solutions to the existing problems and conflicts, Meshkov said.

He noted that Kiev continues its policy aimed at undermining executive power in the Crimea and destabilising the situation in the Republic.

Speaking about the decision to set up a working commission of Ukrainian and Crimean deputies to iron out disagreements, Meshkov expressed hope that the reached "elementary understanding" will be preserved.

"We have outlined an array of measures which both sides are ready to carry out. This is a step forward towards solving the existing problems," he added.

Asked about the Russian-Ukrainian talks on the Black Sea Fleet, the Crimean leader stressed that it would be "somewhat premature" to make assessments because there have been no official reports about the results of the talks.

Crimean Minister Hits National Guard 'Military Buildup'

PM2505180394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 May 94 First Edition p 6

[ITAR-TASS report under the general heading: "Crimea: Talks in Progress; No Easing of Tension"]

[Text] The formation of a 2,500 to 3,000-strong Ukrainian National Guard brigade is continuing in Crimea. This is what Major General Valeriy Kuznetsov, Republic of Crimea internal affairs minister, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent yesterday in an exclusive interview.

V. Kuznetsov pointed out that this military buildup is "unnecessary and atypical" of Crimea, which is already "awash with military formations and combat equipment." At the same time, he noted, Ukraine is indoctrinating and sounding out army units on the matter of the personnel's willingness to take practical action in the event of the introduction of a state of emergency in Crimea.

Crimean Official Supports Power-Sharing Agreement With Kiev

LD2505131794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1047 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Speaker of the Crimean Parliament Sergey Tsekov says Simferopol would be prepared to settle for a power sharing agreement with Kiev similar to that between Russia and Tatarstan. In a speech in Kiev late on Tuesday [24 May], he called for the adoption of one sweeping act to settle differences between Ukraine and Crimea.

Tsekov believes that the current tension follows not only Simferopol's recent decisions, but also a string of inconsistent political moves towards Crimea over the past 18 months.

He said that under the Republic's constitution of 6 May 1992, Crimea is part of Ukraine and "that's all there is to it."

Parliamentary delegations on both sides ended talks in Kiev late on Tuesday by deciding to offer their legislatures to set up a joint working group to iron out differences.

In the meantime, a Ukrainian parliamentary commission has given the Crimean parliament three more days in which to repeal its resolution of last Friday to restore the Republic's 1992 Constitution.

Crimean Legislature Forms Working Group for Talks With Kiev

WS2605105994 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] The Crimean Supreme Soviet is continuing its session in Simferopol. Having informed deputies about the results of the negotiations between the Crimean and Ukrainian legislative delegations in Kiev, Supreme Soviet Chairman Serhiy Tsekov suggested electing a working group to continue negotiations and to search for coordinated (?decisions). Five lawmakers were elected and will reinforce the group according to their own discretion.

The session then resumed a discussion of issues included on the agenda adopted earlier. The deputies heard a report by Crimean Deputy Prime Minister Yevheny Saburov on ways to overcome the bitter economic crisis. Special emphasis was placed on the problem of investments, privatization, and banking. Yevheny Saburov then answered deputies' questions.

Head, Member of Delegation Assess Negotiations

WS2505145494

[Editorial Report] Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian at 1205 GMT on 25 May carries a 40-minute "Independence" program moderated by Alla Storozhenko and attended by People's Deputy Borys Oliynyk, head of the Ukrainian Supreme Council commission, and People's Deputy Yuriy Kostenko, member of the commission, who participated in the 24 May Ukrainian-Crimean negotiations.

Borys Oliynyk begins by denying mass media reports that the situation in Crimea is critical. He says that the Supreme Council commission had been set up and had met the Crimean delegation to "receive first-hand information" on the situation in the peninsula. According to Oliynyk, Crimean representatives assured him that the situation in Crimea is "under control." This was confirmed by "appropriate Ukrainian functionaries." Oliynyk says that "the problem should be resolved on an interstate level." In his opinion the Ukrainian delegation applied a "proper benevolent approach" in its talks with Crimean counterparts and "managed, to some extent, to halt the development of processes undesirable for Ukraine, Crimea, all the neighbors, and the world community."

Yuriy Kostenko confirms that the parties were trying "to find solutions and avoid accusations, because everybody understood the responsibility for the situation." Kostenko then quotes head of Crimean delegation Serhiy Tsekov who presented the situation in Crimea as "complex, however devoid of traits depicted by the mass media." Tsekov reportedly denied reports that Ukraine is building up its military presence in that region. According to Tsekov, "a war of laws" is being waged between Crimea and Ukraine, but the actual situation is "absolutely different" from that depicted in Russian mass media. Tsekov said that he had held a news conference in Crimea aimed to "alleviate tension built up by media reports."

Tsekov is quoted as having said that "a number of Crimean problems demanded that this kind of resolution be passed by the Crimean legislature." According to Tsekov, these are "bitter economic problems," opposition against "the isolationist policy of the Ukrainian leadership," and the Meshkov party's desire to live up to their pre-election commitments. Tsekov reportedly said that the issue of dual citizenship is "extremely urgent" for the Crimeans.

Rejecting claims about Ukraine's isolationism Kostenko, who was a member of the delegation at the Ukrainian-Russian negotiations on the Black Sea Fleet, says that it was often due to the rigid stance of the Russians that agreements were not reached on certain issues of contention. Among all the reasons that allegedly prompted the adoption of the legal acts by the Crimean legislature, Kostenko singles out the fact that Meshkov and his accomplices are trying to carry out their electoral promises and adds: "This problem cannot be resolved by the Ukrainian Supreme Council without goodwill on the part of the other party."

Oliynyk points out certain ambiguities in the Ukrainian Constitution which permit dubious interpretation of certain provisions. He asserts that the two sides "regulate their laws so as to make them explicit." He adds that it should be stated that Ukraine is an independent sovereign state, while Crimea is an autonomous territory. According to Oliynyk, the fact that Crimean legal acts contradict Ukrainian laws and the Constitution was written down in a joint communique issued by the two parties. Ukraine, in its turn, acknowledged "the inefficiency of decisions regarding Crimea, passed by Ukraine's superior bodies of power." Speaking about Crimea's economic problems, Oliynyk cites

the figure of "hundreds of billions karbovantsi" earmarked by Ukraine for the needs of the peninsula. The Ukrainian delegation suggested that a working group be set up to coordinate mutual claims and "put our relations in order."

Kostenko quotes Article 70 of the Ukrainian Constitution, which envisions that Ukraine's territory cannot be changed without the Ukrainian people's consent. The issue of Crimean secession can be resolved solely by means of a nationwide referendum. Kostenko says that the only way to resolve the situation is "to suspend the validity of acts destabilizing the legal situation in Ukraine." Kostenko brings up the fact that 10 days have been given to bring the Crimean Constitution in line with Ukrainian laws. Five days have elapsed and if nothing is done in the remaining period of time "the Ukrainian president will take steps to protect Ukraine's territorial integrity." Crimean bodies of power are forming their own army, subordinating law-enforcement agencies, and the like. Kostenko stresses that "Ukrainian and Crimean executive bodies may overstep the limit behind which a peaceful solution will be practically impossible." The two delegations agreed to address their legislatures with appeals to suspend the observance of their decisions so that a coordinating group has time to draft proposals on how to appease the conflict. Kostenko points out that "although everybody seemed to agree to this option in private talks"..."the Crimean delegation refused to address its legislature." Kostenko adds that the Crimean Supreme Soviet is to discuss the issue of suspending the validity of its decisions at its 26 May session.

Evaluating the results of talks, Oliynyk says that one statement was approved by both delegations: "The Ukrainian Supreme Council Commission suggests that the Ukrainian Supreme Council and the Crimean Supreme Soviet discuss within three days the issue of suspending the validity of acts adopted on 20 May 1994 for the period of activities of the joint working group." In Oliynyk's opinion, the two delegations did what they could in light of current realities.

Kostenko points out that Refat Chubarov, a representative of Crimean Tatars, attended the negotiations and stressed that "the optimal solution for all the ethnic groups residing in Crimea is autonomy within the Ukrainian state."

Completing the program, Oliynyk says that he believes in a "positive outcome" of the developments incited by "political profiteers." Kostenko adds that once Ukraine's economic problems are resolved there will be no grounds for Crimeans' discontent. The other important factor determining further development of events is Russia's stance. Kostenko believes that if Russia abandons its policy of inciting the conflict, the latter "will have no future."

Radetskyy on Crimean Situation, Nuclear Weapons

WS2605113694 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 24 May 94 p 2

[Interview with Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy by Anatoliy Smetanin: "The Army Will Defend the Homeland and Its Sovereignty and Integrity"]

[Text] [Smetanin] What instructions have you received from the supreme commander in chief regarding the Crimean crisis? What are the Army's actions in this complex situation?

[Radetskyy] We have received clear and distinct instructions: to keep to the Ukrainian law and Constitutions in all our actions and perform our basic functions—defend our Homeland and its sovereignty and integrity.

In the Crimea, 32d Army Corps, Ukrainian Navy, air force and anti-aircraft units are stationed... They operate in a regular mode, except that their commanders were instructed to reinforce protection of the command stations and depots with ammunition, equipment, and arms. And I tell you, this measure was not overreaction.

On 19 May, Lieutenant General Mikhail Lopatin, anti-aircraft force commander, reported to me that in the vicinity of Sevastopol, where the command station of one of the anti-aircraft combined units is located, 18 camouflaged men, driving a GAZ-66 truck, attempted to seize this station. They were politely shown out.

The commander also reported his conversation with one of the Crimean President Meshkov's aides who asked what would be the reaction of the Ukrainian anti-aircraft force if certain airplanes or helicopters attempted to land in the Crimea. There could be only one answer: the most harshest measures would be applied to them. In other words, they want to test the reaction of our Armed Forces. We will do our best to make sure that our skies are clear.

[Smetanin] Did you talk about the Crimean issue with your Russian counterpart?

[Radetskyy] What does Pavel Grachev have to do with developments in the Crimea? Nothing. It is as if I asked him: how are things in, for example, in Kaliningrad or Ussuriysk? The Crimea is in Ukrainian territory, so it is our business.

Another thing is how you cover the events. The Black Sea Fleet press center, headed by Grachev's namesake who stirs up emotions and provides false information, is by no means an example to follow. No one else but the center sent a wire to Ostankino (containing, however, the request not to make public its contents) claiming that there are 1,000 Ukrainian special troops allegedly stationed in Bilbek and that movement of tank columns and armored personnel carriers can be observed...

We heard about this information, or more precisely, disinformation. No tanks, planes, or APCs were used in connection with the situation in the Crimea.

[Smetanin] The Crimean situation forced many parties and movements to reveal their position on the issue and suggestions how to resolve it. For example, Rukh considers it necessary to suspend transportation of our nuclear weapons to Russia. What is your opinion?

[Radetskyy] I am a military man. The transportation of those weapons is carried out according to the trilateral agreement by the presidents of Ukraine, Russia, and the

United States. We drafted the transportation schedule and strictly follow it. Only the Supreme Council can change it or halt this process. We will implement its decisions—all to the last letter. This is why I will not comment on that kind of statements.

In all my time as defense minister, I have never judged any parties or movements, because I believe that the Army should stay away from it. We are grateful to their leadership for their understanding of our, let us say, neutrality.

[Smetanin] You said that tension in the Crimea is generated by the presence of the Black Sea Fleet there. Will, and when, the negotiations be continued on this issue?

[Radetskyy] The negotiations will certainly be continued. It is in our interests that the Black Sea knot be untied. The most important thing here is to determine the fleet's status. Now, it is considered to be a kind of common fleet, subordinate to the Ukrainian and Russian presidents. But as a matter of fact, it is ruled by Russia. We should clearly divide it into the Ukrainian and Russian fleets and deem the latter the fleet of a foreign state with all consequences of this.

We will soon come up with our proposals to start negotiations.

[Smetanin] Do you not think that those negotiations cannot be held in the Crimea?

[Radetskyy] I absolutely agree with you, because it would bring nothing but political fights. The delegations should meet in some neutral place.

Tasks of Security Service in Crimea Outlined

LD2505153794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1228 GMT 25 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev, 25 May—"Personnel of the Security Service's Main Directorate in Crimea are continuing to carry out their duties of protecting the security of the state in a precise and organized manner, in spite of the difficult political situation that has arisen around the regional branch of the special service." Thus, reads a release for the mass media circulated today by the press center of the Ukrainian Security Service.

The main task for staff of the Ukrainian Security Service's Main Directorate is vigorously to campaign against corruption and organized crime, to protect the region's economy from criminal violations, and to maintain peace and calm in the Republic of Crimea, the document stresses. Furthermore, the Security Service is closely collaborating with the internal affairs and procuracy bodies. The requirement to provide the president, the leaders of the parliament, and the Supreme Soviet of Crimea, and local authorities with full and objective information in the interests of resolving the autonomous republic's vital issues also remains in force.

Mountain Exercises Seen as Prelude to Invasion

MK2505113594 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 25 May 94 p 5

[Report by Yuriy Selivanov from Odessa under the "Ukraine" rubric: "In What Mountains Is Vitaliy Radetskiy Going To Fight? Army Exercises Have Taken Place in the Carpathians"]

[Text] The Carpathian-based mountain training center of the Ukrainian Army has engaged the personal attention of Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskiy. In mid-May he attended the combat training drills of motorized infantry, tank and artillery units that were held in the mountains. The minister was displeased with the degree of his subordinates' readiness to operate in mountainous terrain and recommended that unit commanders "place particular emphasis" on the subject. Curiously, the last time close attention was paid to the troops' mountain training was at the beginning of the 1980s, when the Soviet Army invaded Afghanistan and effectively proved themselves unable to counter the mujahidin operating in local mountains.

It seems unlikely, however, that the Ukrainian Army is planning a new march to Kabul. Still, the mountain ambitions of the Kiev minister are entirely explicable if one recalls that the sole mountainous area on Ukrainian territory excepting the Carpathians is the Crimean peninsula. The stepped-up mountain training of Ukrainian Army units could be interpreted as a clear sign of Kiev's comprehensive preparations for the forcible settlement of the Crimean problem. Moreover, one should realize that so specific and purposeful an activity by the Defense Ministry indicates that the stage of making a political decision in principle on the matter is long past. Apparently, it is the existence of a specific mission that explains Mr. Radetskiy's concern over the state of the troops' mountain training.

However, one cannot read without a smile a report by the Kiev-based GOLOS UKRAINY newspaper which, while analyzing the Ukrainian troops' combat readiness, cites an inadequate grasp of the state language by soldiers and officers as one of the main reasons for the drawbacks exposed, something that "jeopardizes the command and control of troops." I think that the Ukrainian journalists' fears about a lack of command and control of troops are somewhat exaggerated. Vitaliy Radetskiy and all his subordinates have a perfect grasp of Russian, in which they actually express themselves when discussing any more or less serious matters.

Ministry Warns Against Russian 'Interference' in Fleet

AU2505123494 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 24 May 94 p 2

[Undated "Statement by the Press Service of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense"]

[Text] The Russian mass media continue disseminating gossip [plitky] on the concentration of Ukrainian troops in

the areas of Sevastopol and Simferopol. Open lies are carried with references to Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation Pavel Grachev and this, mildly speaking, gives rise to surprise. It only remains to wonder whether this is yet another political trick on the part of the Russian military ministry or its habit to rely upon dubious information sources.

Moreover, General Grachev makes statements whose content indicates that the Black Sea Fleet is commanded by the Defense Ministry of the Russian Federation. Besides, the fleet receives orders and directives from the Russian military department. Recently, Pavel Grachev ordered to decisively "counter all provocative actions with regard to the Black Sea Fleet facilities...."

The Press Service of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense is authorized to state that the interference by the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation into the affairs of the united Black Sea Fleet, which, in accordance with the Yalta accord, is directly subordinated to the presidents of Ukraine and Russia, impedes a civilized resolution of the problem of dividing the fleet and creates a dangerous tension in the Crimea.

Black Sea Fleet Discusses Crimean Crisis

LD2505151294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] The military council of the Black Sea fleet completely rules out intervention by power structures as a means of overcoming the crisis in the Crimea. Today's meeting at fleet headquarters was attended by commanders of formations and units. It was chaired by Admiral Eduard Baltin, commander of the fleet.

Black Sea Fleet Assembly Not Linked to Crimean Crisis

LD2505150794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1257 GMT 25 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 25 May—The all-hands assembly of fleet commanders in Sevastopol, which, according to some Ukrainian mass media, provoked a negative response in Kiev, is not linked to the recent events in Crimea. According to the press center of the Black Sea Fleet, the commanders of formations, groupings, and units gathered today at the headquarters of the Black Sea Fleet to sum up the results of winter training. It was noted at a sitting of the military council that the fleet had successfully carried out its tasks in the past six months and was prepared to implement the programs of summer training.

The sitting of the military council devoted particular attention to the problem of injuries of servicemen during military training and operating the equipment.

Black Sea Fleet Plays Down Rumors of Reinforcement

LD2605104794 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0720 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Simferopol, 25 May—Sergey Ozerov, spokesman for the Black Sea Fleet's press center, refused to confirm reports that the Black Sea Fleet Command is preparing to transfer a tank battalion and an antiaircraft missile division from the Black Sea coastguard force, deployed in Crimea, to Sevastopol. Meanwhile, sources close to the Black Sea Fleet headquarters say an order to that effect was imminent and that the redeployment of the subunits was prevented by the information leak.

Chernobyl AES Director Denies Possibility of 'New Accident'

AU2605140194 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 25 May 94 p 8

[Unattributed report: "No Grounds for Panic"]

[Text] The distribution of iodine preparations to families in Chernihiv Oblast created panic among the population. In view of that, a news conference was held at which presidential representative in the oblast Valentyn Melnychuk stated that it had been a purely preventive measure, which had nothing to do with a "new" accident at the Chernobyl Atomic Electric Power Plant [AES]. Serhiy Parashyn, general director of the plant, assured journalists that his collective had "rendered such an accident impossible." In his opinion, the idea of closing down the Chernobyl AES has been artificially spread at the initiative of certain circles in the West. The people who are mainly interested in this are those trying to obtain funds from Ukraine's budget for implementing expensive projects.

Speaker Accused of Launching 'Communist Coup' in Parliament

LD2505111094 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2145 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] Kiev, 24 May—Opposition leader Vyacheslav Chornovil, said that what had taken place during a closed parliamentary session was a communist coup carried out under the leadership of Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz. In his view, the election of deputy chairmen of the Supreme Council was carried out with numerous procedural violations, without announcing a continuation of plenary sittings of the Supreme Council, and the discussion of candidates lasted for only 30 seconds.

As the leader of Rukh said during a conversation with a UNIAR correspondent, the Supreme Council Secretariat was not issuing copies of the verbatim record of the sitting to representatives of the Center group and the right-wing bloc. Chornovil believes that the possibility of falsifying the record exists. Representatives of four deputies' groups, Rukh, Center, Reform, and Statehood protested against the violation and said they were not prepared to take part in plenary sittings unless the election is declared invalid. Mr. Chornovil also said that obviously, deputies of the Center group and right of center groups would have to refuse to participate in forming the Cabinet of Ministers.

Belarus

Russia To Have Use of Missile Attack Warning Station

LD2505165494 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0300 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] The latest round of Russo-Belarus negotiations on questions of military cooperation has been held in Minsk. As (?Venyamin Popov), the head of the Russian delegation stated, Russia will receive the possibility of using the radio station in Vileyka, even following the conclusion of the withdrawal of strategic forces from Belarus. Apart from that, construction of the missile attack warning radar station near Baranovichi will be completed. These facilities will also remain on Belarus territory even after the year 2000 and will operate in the interests of all member countries of the Treaty on Collective Security.

Radiation at Ignalina Plant Said Within 'Normal Limits'

WS2505131394 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 25 May 94

["Official statement"]

[Text] On 24 May, according to the schedule of the Civilian Defense of Minsk Oblast, a planned quarterly exercise was held to observe laboratory control networks, as well as to practice a complex of radiation protection measures in Myadel Rayon of Minsk Oblast. According to (?information) received from the State Hydrometeorological Committee [Halowhydromet], the State Committee for Nuclear Control [Dzyarzhatamnahlyad], and the management of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant, at 1200 [0900 GMT] on 25 May, the radiation level around the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant was within the normal limits. At the station itself, beginning in April, one energy unit has been under a scheduled repair. Operation of the second energy unit was halted for economic reasons, and it does not produce electric energy.

Rumors About Heightened Radiation Level Refuted

WS2505125794 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1000 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Alarming rumors are spreading throughout the Crepublic faster than radiation. Namely, radiation is the reason for civil unrest. Therefore, our correspondent Anatol Awcharenka has phoned the Halowhydramet [State Hydrometeorological Committee].

[Begin recording] [Awcharenka] Good day, Ivan Ivanavich [Matveyenka]! The Studio of Information Programs of the republican radio has resolved to address you to get the most competent information, since you are the head of the Republican Center for Radiation Control and Environmental Monitoring. The point is that our studio has received hundreds of telephone calls this morning—perhaps, you have received them, too—asking what has happened at the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant. Is there some emergency situation?

[Matveyenka, in Russian] We also have received such calls. The Halowhydramet is monitoring the radiation level continually throughout the entire territory of the Republic. Measurements of the gamma irradiation rate are being taken at 53 control points everyday. In the 100-km zone of the nuclear power stations, located around Belarus, measurements are being taken every three hours. There are no changes in the radiation level in the entire Republic.

[Awcharenka] Have you phoned the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant?

[Matveyenka] We phoned the Ignalina plant as early as yesterday. The radiation level around the nuclear plant is normal. The nuclear plant has not been in operation for about a month now. However, civil unrest has apparently arisen due to the fact that the Staff of Civilian Defense...

[Awcharenka, interrupting] Republican Staff?

[Matveyenka] ... the Oblast Staff of the Civilian Defense conducted exercises in Myadel Rayon and has determined in exercise conditions [dal vvodnyye] that the radiation level at Naroch [river] is above normal.

[Awcharenka] And hence the panic among our population?

[Matveyenka] Yes, well, the Staff of Civilian Defense perfected the actions of these organizations for iodine preventative treatment [pauses]... the actions of those bodies concerned with these questions. Therefore, such a panic arouse. Such a panic, an alarm, arises frequently. However, fortunately, all this does not correspond to the existing rumors.

[Awcharenka] Apparently, Ivan Ivanavich, this has happened because these exercises were not planned [pauses]...

[Matveyenka] Absolutely right. These exercises were not planned. However, they cannot be planned beforehand. If all these exercises are announced beforehand, then they will not be exercises. Therefore, all these questions [pauses]... apparently, the radio should give information about the holding of such exercises, in all the services.

[Awcharenka] Ivan Ivanavich, we have been informed by our listeners, who phoned in the morning, that children are not allowed to go to kindergartens, that schools changed their schedules—the school summer holidays will begin earlier. What can you say about that?

[Matveyenka] I want to [word indistinct] assure them that the radiation level is normal in the entire territory of the Republic. I have information before me on the computer that at 0900 [0600 GMT] this morning there were 14 microroentgens per hour in Minsk...

[Awcharenka, interrupting] Let us review the norm.

[Matveyenka] Naturally. Before the Chernobyl events, the gamma irradiation rate on the territory was 10-20 (?microroentgens) per hour. Therefore, everything is within

the normal limits. And, throughout the territory of Belarus, I can read [pauses]... in the region of Braslav—11 microroentgens, in Slutsk—16 microroentgens, in Marina Gorka—11 microroentgen. Everything is within the normal limits.

[Awcharenka] Thank you for such competent information. I will remind our listeners that we have phoned Ivan Ivanavich Matveyenka, head of the Republican Center of Radiation Control and Environmental Monitoring. [end recording]

Statement on Civil Defense Exercise, Radiation Levels

LD2505164994 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Official report: On 24 May, according to the Minsk Oblast civil defense procedures plan, planned quarterly training was held for the networks of supervision and laboratory monitoring. Elaborate radiation protection measures were put into operation in Myadelskiy Rayon, Minsk Oblast. According to evidence obtained from the Main Hydrometeorology Service, the State Atomic Supervision and the leadership of the Ignalina nuclear power station, at 1200 today the radiation situation around the Ignalina nuclear power station was within normal limits.

Since April, one generating unit at the station itself has been undergoing a scheduled overhaul. The second generating unit has been halted for economic reasons and is not producing electricity.

Deputies Withdraw Support for Karpenka Candidacy

WS2505085394 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] BELINFORM, citing the Information Service of the Party of People's Accord [PNZ], reported that three more peoples' deputies—Barys Savitski, Uladzimir Vawchetski, and Alyaksandr Spihlazaw—have announced to the Central Electoral Commission the withdrawal of their support for presidential candidate Henadz Karpenka. Moreover, the PNZ discovered in the course of checking lists of the electors of [word indistinct] Minsk City rayon, that around 4,000 signatures of the electors were found invalid.

Defense Minister Kozlovskiy Interviewed

PM2605105794 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 26 May 94 p 3

[Interview with Belarusian Defense Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy by Nikolay Mirgorodskiy; date and place of interview not stated: "Of Sovereignty and a Kalashnikov Cartridge"]

[Text] Colonel General Pavel Pavlovich Kozlovskiy, the republic's defense minister, is extremely busy and, I thought, it would be problematic for him to find even a little time to talk with a journalist. But the Defense Ministry immediately gave a date and time for the meeting. And the talk began with a very topical theme: preparation for the celebration of Belarus' liberation from the German fascist invaders.

[Kozlovskiy] Actually the Defense Ministry is already taking part in these events. The army is quite unable to stand aloof from the nationwide holiday. A state commission which includes representatives of the Defense Ministry has been created for holding the celebrations. A special badge has been approved which will be presented to the veterans of the republic's liberation. However banal it may sound now, the military units are assuming patronage of the veterans, helping them, and tending the monuments and graves. A special plan has been compiled.

[Mirgorodskiy] Comrade minister, do you believe a Belarusian army has been established and what traditions—before and after the October period or relating to recent years—have been most acceptable to it?

[Kozlovskiy] We are in favor of the good army traditions of all periods and generations being preserved. But the traditions of recent generations of the USSR Armed Forces are more important. Fraternity, mutual assistance, friendship, honor—these are sacred concepts for any soldier and officer. There is no doubt that we do not have the right to forget the many years of history of the Belorussian Military District. Outstanding military leaders served here and sophisticated equipment was tested. If we are able to retain the links and traditions of the generations, that will have a beneficial effect on the army's combat capability. And it is now in the process of reform which according to the plan ends in late 1994. The establishment of the armed forces is proceeding on the basis of the republic's legislation. But to ensure that they acquire their own national identity we still have a great deal of work to do.

[Mirgorodskiy] You mentioned that the Belorussian Military District used to test sophisticated models of weapons and equipment. So they are not being tested now? And in general where do you get weapons, equipment, fuel, uniforms, spare parts, and food supplies?

[Kozlovskiy] A fine question. You should have put it to some deputies who accuse the army of every sin. Yes, previously there was a single supply system for the armed forces. The Belorussian Military District was considered the best in the Union. Moscow gave it everything. Today the situation has changed. The tough system of centralized material supplies has been destroyed. We have been obliged to embark on bilateral agreements with Russia, Ukraine, Poland, and other countries in order to maintain our combat readiness.

Once again difficulties with finances have arisen. If only the power gave us as much as we need for arms. But alas! We are obliged to engage in commercial activity, for which we are mercilessly and perhaps sometimes rightly criticized. But the main function of any army, you will agree, is in no way trade and commerce.

[Mirgorodskiy] The unit's banner. It is sacred to any serviceman. Its loss is shameful. How do matters stand with

regard to our units' old combat banners? Will they be kept in the ranks or replaced with the white, red, and white flag?

[Kozlovskiy] We delivered an appeal to the Supreme Soviet Presidium on the retention of the units' combat banners, orders, and names. They are our history, our memory. In the republic's top instances there is a proposal to approve the national banner of the Republic of Belarus Armed Forces with all attributes. We believe that both banners—the old and the new—should be in the ranks together.

[Mirgorodskiy] Let us suppose that some adversary has decided to attack the republic. Will the Belarusian army be able to defend us?

[Kozlovskiy] The troops are in a state of combat readiness. That is unequivocal. The question lies elsewhere. Is the army prepared alone, and I stress that, alone, to deliver a fitting rebuff to a potential foe? It all depends on the level of the conflict. Of course, the army will fight, but it is nonetheless better to defend ourselves in alliance with other friendly states. At least it is far more reliable.

[Mirgorodskiy] How much money has been earmarked for the Defense Ministry this year?

[Kozlovskiy] About 4 percent of the republican budget. This money should be enough only for the army to survive. Incidentally, for your information in Russia 20 percent of budget funds are earmarked for this purpose.

[Mirgorodskiy] You say we are short of equipment. But to judge by the recent rapturous newspaper articles we are destroying it quite successfully: destroying tanks, aircraft, and missiles. That is illogical....

[Kozlovskiy] It is all logical. If logical is part of our reality at all. We are fulfilling international treaties. Although it is permitted to use some of the equipment in the national economy and as exhibits. A painful subject. But even the vehicles we are reequipping for use for civilian purposes are not, alas, finding customers. Moreover we have the right to sell only those tanks, for instance, which were allowed to have according to the quota. The others must be scrapped.

[Mirgorodskiy] And where does the metal go?

[Kozlovskiy] To Khlobin to be melted down.....

[Mirgorodskiy] Let us turn from strictly army questions. And let us talk a little about politics. The presidential election campaign is about to begin. How will the army take part in it?

[Kozlovskiy] The army by law is outside politics. But no one has deprived the soldiers and officers of the right to vote. Campaigning work will not be carried out in the military collectives. As you know, there are no political parties in the army. So that each person will make his choice independently.

[Mirgorodskiy] We have touched on the subject of the shortage of fuels and lubricants, spare parts, and ammunition. But how are exercises proceeding? According to a curtailed program?

[Kozlovskiy] Combat training is being carried out in full. Various simulators are being used, including those developed at our own firms. We are merely trying to restrict the troops' movement.

[Mirgorodskiy] It is known that the officer cadres are not trained in all specialities in Belarus. How is the Defense Ministry recruiting the specialists it needs?

[Kozlovskiy] We are now short of about 1,500 junior officers. We are developing our own academy and schools are being reoriented. Cadres are also being trained abroad. One month of training for a cadet costs $300-350 [figure as published]. Is that expensive? Undoubtedly. Now those cadets who arrived to study during the existence of the USSR are completing their study in our schools. But few are expressing the desire to serve in Belarus. Because a Russian officer's salary is considerably higher than a Belarusian's. Incidentally, our draftee soldier receives half the minimum wage.

[Mirgorodskiy] Let us complete the subject of money with the following question: What is the actual cost of one artillery round (as a comparison a pair of shoes used to be cited) and one cartridge for a Kalashnikov assault rifle?

[Kozlovskiy] One artillery round, depending on the shell, costs $100-600. A Kalashnikov cartridge costs 25 cents. You can do the sum and make the comparison.

Moldova

Prime Minister: Economic Restructuring Top Priority

LD2505175294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 25 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] Prime Minister Andrey Sangheli says his government's main priority is to try to carry out an economic restructuring which provides either for winding up or updating the loss making enterprises. He believes this can help slow down production slump, stimulate the manufacture of competitive products and set conditions for the development of more promising sectors to update the country's economic potential.

In an interview with INTERFAX, Sangheli said that the state sector would continue to be the backbone of the economy though after being reformed. The government sees restructuring as one of the important directions for enhancing the manageability of the state sector.

Sangheli said that "management machines" would be set up in sectors depending on their specifics: from direct government support to sectors such as power generation and transport down to corporations, holdings, stock companies with the participation of state capital. He said that as a form, stock holding companies were more preferable than others. On the other hand, this can help privatize state property by the use of bonds (Russian-style privatization vouchers—IF). On the other, it will help plants achieve greater economic self-reliance, give them an opportunity to

merge with their counterparts, promote stable contacts with related industries and lure foreign investment if need be.

Starting from this month, said the prime minister, large profit-making businesses will be put for sale for privatization vouchers on a regular basis. Together with the reorganization of state and leasing businesses into stock companies, the government plans, starting from July, to launch a massive campaign for selling state-run businesses as integrated property complexes and to finalize privatization of retail trade, catering and services later this year.

Sangheli said that a group of large state enterprises would be transformed into closed-end stock companies with a government stake running at more than 80 percent. The operation of such businesses also involving private investment is to be regulated both by existing and new laws. Government regulation is needed to help retain their production capacity and carry out measures for the conversion or updating of production.

Sangheli said that under a parliamentary resolution, part of the state-owned businesses in a number of sectors were not subject to privatization. These, he said, will be transformed into stock companies, wholly government-owned or with foreign participation, but with the government holding to the controlling package. The government is also to remain in control of businesses relating to its natural monopoly.

The government is planning to bring a new law on state enterprises and work out a package of measures to enforce it.

Sangheli also spoke of government plans to launch a campaign this year to reorganize debtor plants. Expertise is also to be held in the next two years of key sectors of the economy to test out their possible advancement from the point of view of new technologies and socioeconomic policies.

Law Legalizing Possession of Arms Passed in 1st Reading

MK2505122694 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 May 94 p 4

[Arkadiy Pasechnik report from Chisinau: "If You Want To Live, Learn To Shoot"]

[Text] The Moldovan parliament has adopted at its first reading the Law On Control over Individual Weapons, or more simply, on the right to own such weapons.

This development, as should have been expected, has drawn a mixed reaction in the republic. Some people welcome the decision, but most citizens are worried, expecting a new, this time even more dangerous surge in crime rates. These worries are far from groundless. According to the Moldovan Internal Affairs Ministry, this year alone the number of crimes involving firearms has almost trebled against 1993. Specialists think that lots of the weapons involved are still kept from the armed conflict on the Dniester in the summer of 1992. Plus, of course, what has been obtained recently on the side by criminal gangs that clash in increasingly frequent bloody showdowns.

So, an ordinary person also needs the chance to defend himself, runs the argument taken up by those favoring the open sale of weapons. Yes he does, the law's opponents counter, but such weapons will be too expensive for the ordinary person for a long time to come. Look, a citizen does not have enough money even to pay for his apartment. As a result, the right to armed defense could become an exclusive privilege of the rich.

Most important, as readers point out in the local press very frequently, the adoption of such a law will mean that the state recognizes its impotence in ensuring the security of its own citizens.

New PTCDM Party Attacks 'Incompetent' Government

AU2505133694 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1300 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 25/5/1994—Ion Batcu, chairman of the Coordinating Council of the recently registered Peasant Christian Democratic Party of Moldova [PTCDM], declared today to BASAPRESS that "the current government is the most incompetent Moldova has ever had, being incapable of pulling the country out of its deep crisis." He specified that the PTCDM will lead the political movement of the peasant parties in Bessarabia. "We think the problems of the village are to be solved first. If the government does not do this, the crisis will never be overcome," said Batcu, mentioning that his party will be in opposition to the current governing forces. Tomorrow at noon, the PTCDM will hold a press conference, in the hall of the Journalists' Union (House of the Press).

Armenia

Azerbaijan Blamed For Cease-Fire Violations

NC2505183894 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

We welcome the fact that the combat operations in the confrontation zone have been suspended. The agreement for a cease-fire has rarely been violated, but Azerbaijan has to be blamed for the violations of the agreement. That Republic's military units have intermittently fired on various points of the Armenian front line. The NKR defense units have refrained from returning the fire.

Regrettably, Azerbaijan has violated the cease-fire. The NKR Defense Army Headquarters Press Service has disclosed that Azerbaijan's military units tried to capture a strategically important hill in the Gadrutskiy and Fizulinskiy sector of the front line at about 0300. The NKR defense units repulsed the attack. No one was hurt on the Armenian side.

The Armenian Ministry of Defense Information Center has informed us that the situation on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan has been relatively peaceful. No incident has occurred in that region.

We hope that a completely peaceful situation will be established on the border as soon as possible.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev 'Optimistic' on Relations With U.S.

944K1292B Baku AZERBAYDZHAN in Russian 24 May 94 p 1

[AZERTADZH report: "'We Aspire to the All-Around Development of Cooperation With the United States'"]

[Text] "I welcome the arrival in the republic of such a representative delegation from the United States of America. We aspire to the all-around development of relations between the United States and Azerbaijan and in this context attach importance to the meeting with you," Geydar Aliyev, president of Azerbaijan, declared, receiving on 15 May a U.S. delegation headed by James Collins, special adviser to the U.S. secretary of state and senior coordinator of U.S. policy in respect to the new independent states (CIS). The delegation, which had come to Baku to study the prospects of the cooperation of the two countries, also included Joseph Presel, chief of the State Department Regional Conflicts Desk and U.S. representative in the CSCE Minsk Group, and representatives of the Departments of Defense, Treasury, and Energy.

Having expressed his respect for the leadership and people of the United States of America and the President of the country, Geydar Aliyev emphasized that he viewed with optimism the future of Azerbaijani-American relations and a strengthening of relations between the two countries. We value highly the efforts of the United States, he said, aimed at support for the new states that have formed since the disintegration of the former USSR. Considering that attempts are being made to deprive these republics, ours included, of sovereignty and independence, the support of the United States was and remains a powerful factor restraining these attempts.

Speaking of the military conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, which has essentially grown into a war and which is seriously damaging the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, the president of the republic emphasized: "Our position is unequivocal—the conflict must be settled peacefully, and relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the question of Nagornyy Karabakh also must be discussed only at the negotiating table. Operating in this direction, we are cooperating actively with the CSCE and its Minsk Group, of which the United States is a member, and on which we pin big hopes."

As Geydar Aliyev observed, the development of Azerbaijan's economic relations with other countries, the United States included, will play an enormous part in a strengthening of the republic's independence. In the president's opinion, the United States also has an interest in the establishment of mutually profitable relations with Azerbaijan—a state with strong economic potential—cooperation in the sphere of the development and use of the oil deposits included. We hope, he announced, that the negotiations between the State Petroleum Company of Azerbaijan and Western firms, of a consortium of which the American Amoco and Pennzoil companies are a part, will be concluded successfully. As you know, a stage of the negotiations is taking place currently in Istanbul, and I hope, the head of state observed, that the signing of oil contracts will be possible upon their conclusion. Geydar Aliyev also expressed the hope that cooperation in the sphere of oil production would make it possible to expand contacts in other spheres also, emphasizing that a strengthening of Azerbaijani-American relations would be of importance for economic cooperation between the two countries.

Other matters connected with the prospects of the development of bilateral relations were discussed also.

Rasul Guliyev, chairman of the Supreme Council, Fuad Guliyev, first deputy prime minister, State Counselor Vafa Guli-zade, Gasan Gasanov, minister of foreign relations of the republic, and Richard Dale Kozlaric, ambassador of the United States in Azerbaijan, were present at the reception.

Aliyev Happy With Talks With Western Oil Companies

LD2505122594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1047 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] President Geydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan has expressed satisfaction over the course of talks on two offshore oil projects in the Caspian Sea between the Azeri Government and a consortium of Western companies.

At a meeting with consortium representatives in Baku on Tuesday, the president spoke of Baku's willingness to strike

a fair deal which would mark a new stage in the development of the country's oil industry.

The consortium includes British Petroleum, Statoil of Norway, Turkish Petroleum Corporation and U.S. Amoco, Pennzoil, McDermot and Unocal. Also attending was a representative of Russia's LUKoil company which was awarded a 10 percent stake of Azerbaijan's share of some 30 percent.

Aliyev described as a success the latest round of talks which ended in Istanbul (Turkey) on May 20. He said the negotiations would resume in a month.

On taxes and oil tariffs, Aliyev said these technicalities were subject to negotiation.

He tried to allay fears about the uncertainty of the Caspian Sea's status, saying Azerbaijan was firmly in control of its territorial waters.

Aliyev Receives Iranian Petroleum Minister

NC2505211294 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Today, Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev received a delegation led by the Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i.

[Begin Nermine Elikhanbeyli recording] In conveying the greetings of the Iranian Government, Mr. Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i said during his meeting with the Azerbaijani president that he considers the development of beneficial cooperation between the two neighboring states as imperative. According to the minister, Iran is taking practical steps in this direction. The memorandum on laying a gas pipeline to Nakhichevan has already been ratified by Iran.

In noting that he gives great importance to Iranian-Azerbaijani ties, President Geydar Aliyev stated that our republic is ready to cooperate with the neighboring state in every field. Therefore, it complies with our state policy to regard Iran as a system with which to cooperate.

President noted that he will be visiting Iran in the near future, and hopes his visit will produce practical results.

Fuat Guliyev, first deputy prime minister; State Adviser Vafa Gulizade; Natiq Aliyev, the president of the State Oil Company; 'Ali Akbar Nahavandian, Iranian ambassador to Azerbaijan; 'Ali Abdul Alizadeh, governor of East Azerbaijan; and other officials took part in the meeting.

Rasul Guliyev, the head of the Azerbaijani Parliament, also met with the delegation today and said that Azerbaijan, which wishes to emerge on the international scene, is pinning great hopes on its economic ties in the oil sector. Therefore, he noted, priority will continue to be given to intensive cooperation with the neighboring states.

Afiaddin Dzhalilov, deputy chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet, the Iranian Ambassador to Azerbaijan 'Ali Akbar Nahavandian, and other officials were present at the meeting. [end recording]

'Rebel' Members Return to National Assembly

LD2505160894 Baku AZERTAC in Russian 1256 GMT 25 May 94

[Excerpt] Baku, 25 May—For the first time since the split which occurred two weeks ago following the withdrawal of 15 members of parliament [MPs] in protest against the signing by the republic of the Bishkek protocol, the sitting of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan started this afternoon with a full quorum.

Speaking on behalf of the "rebel" MPs, Tofik Gasymov, who had been foreign minister under the Elchibey regime, explained that their decision to return to the meeting hall was taken in order "not to provide any more reason to the authorities for slander and blackmail." However, he stated, the group of MPs he represents remain of the same opinion. "We are against not only the Bishkek protocol, but also the introduction of Russian troops into the region in the guise of CIS peace-making forces," he stressed. The Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict should be settled, in his view, within the framework of the United Nations and the CSCE. He also feels that to solve this complex problem it is necessary to return to the trilateral peace initiative of Russia, Turkey, and the United States. As for separation forces and international observers, the MP is convinced that they can be brought in and stationed in the conflict zone, but only after the appropriate decision by the UN Security Council.

More hardline was the speech by Etibar Mammadov, the leader of the influential opposition party—National Independence of Azerbaijan—who announced his resignation as a member of the National Assembly. According to his assertion, over recent days the republic has seen a campaign of blackmail unfolding against the opposition, which differs from the authorities in approaches to settling the conflict. [passage omitted]

Parliamentarian Beaten; Leadership Accused of Suppression

NC2505122094 Baku TURAN in English 1047 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Baku (May 23) [date as received] TURAN—Today a member of Azerbaijan's Milli Majlis, Ibrahim Ibrahimli, was beaten after he exited the parliament building. According to Ibrahimli the police "asked him to come in to talk for about a minute." He refused to go with them, and they forcibly threw him into a car and took him to Baku's Chief Police Division. En route to the station, he was beaten.

According to witnesses, fifteen men took part in the beating. On May 21 Ibrahimli was severely beaten when a demonstration was dispersed and incurred serious injuries. According to unofficial sources, the leadership will continue to suppress the opposition.

Authorities Seen To Want 'Confrontation' With Opposition

NC2505122594 Baku TURAN in English 1047 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Baku (May 24) TURAN—Behaviour of the authorities shows that they intend to urge the opposition on open and forced confrontation. It is not a secret that parliament's crisis on May 18 was intendedly provoked by the authorities. They knew that the irritated opposition would leave Parliament's session and would prefer to conduct a rally. Dispersion of the demonstrators, arrests and slaughter of the deputies and party leaders on May 21 just poured oil in the flame.

Yesterday the police seized and beat the deputy and the PFA leader, Ibragim Ibragimli. On the same day the Milli Majlis made a request to President Aliyev to reduce the quorum in the Majlis from 34 to 26 voices. The approval of this request by President Aliyev means that any his proposals will be immediately adopted by legislative body of the country.

The opposition is put in the following conditions: Either it will capitulate and resign itself to dictatorship or it will put resistance.

The authorities commit outrages and realizing the danger of it, they try to make their activities legal.

The conflict between the opposition and the authorities takes place on the background of worsened geopolitical situation and due to this fact foreign forces urge Azerbaijan on confrontation with elements of civil war. Probably, the foreign forces intend to remove the current president. However, he will not leave his office easily and the situation can lose control. One should take into account that Azerbaijan is at the state of war and civil confrontation in the Republic can cause serious consequences.

Appeal to Aliyev on Independent TV Closing

944K1302A Baku GUNAY in Russian 25 May 94 p 1

["Appeal to Mr. G. Aliyev, President of the Azerbaijan Republic, and the National Assembly of the Azerbaijan Republic"]

[Text] The appearance of the private television company VMTI has played an appreciable role in the life of independent Azerbaijan—which is experiencing a difficult sociopolitical situation—by contributing to the establishment of principles of freedom of thought and pluralism and to the formation of democratic institutions of power.

From the day it was created VMTI television set for itself the goal of serving the people who are experiencing a difficult period in their history, who are tired of political cataclysms. By advocating human and national cultural values, the television company has contributed to the development of high aesthetic taste in the viewers. This is why in a short period of time VMTI has been able to win the sympathies of a broad viewing audience.

Any success begins with creative competition. The newly created television company has helped in all ways to develop a high level of professionalism among television workers. There is still much for the television channel, which is not even a year old, to do along this path. But as in other areas of our life, obstacles have appeared on the path to the new—in this case the television company. The sudden closure of VMTI, which was founded in compliance with existing legislation, has evoked protest from the intelligentsia.

We, the undersigned, request that you provide for the restoration of democratic norms and overturn the illegal decision to close down the private television company VMTI.

Respectfully,
Anar [Azeri writer], Mikhail Abdullayev, Fuad Poladov, Dzhevanshir Kuliyev, Rafig Guseynov, and others.

(A total of 22 signatures.)

Georgia

Shevardnadze Extends State of Emergency in W. Georgia

LD2505194894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1826 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze today signed a decree to prolong the state of emergency in ten districts of West Georgia until July 23.

The state of emergency was imposed last December following an aggravation of the criminal situation.

Shevardnadze asked the Georgian parliament to approve his decree.

Shevardnadze Decree on State of Emergency

LD2505204994 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1950 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Here is the Georgian head of state's decree on the extension of the state of emergency in Abasha, Vani, Zugdidi, Lanchkhuti, Martvili, Mestia, Ozurgeti, Samtredia, Senaki, Khobi, Khoni, Tsalenjikha, Chokhatauri, and Chkhorotsku rayons and in the town of Poti:

With the aim of ensuring the security of citizens and consolidating law and order in all spheres of public and social life in West Georgia, and in accordance with the law of the Republic of Georgia of 6 November 1992 on state authority and the law of the Republic of Georgia of 11 December 1990 on state of emergency, the state of emergency in Abasha, Vani, Zugdidi, Lanchkhuti, Martvili, Mestia, Ozurgeti, Samtredia, Senaki, Khobi, Khoni, Tsalenjikha, Chokhatauri, and Chkhorotsku rayons and in the town of Poti is to be extended for two months from 23 May 1994.

The parliament of the Republic of Georgia is requested to confirm the extension of emergency rules in West Georgia.

[signed] Eduard Shevardnadze.

Shevardnadze, Chanturia Hail Accord Declaration

LD2505201894 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 25 May 94

[Text] The signing of a Declaration of National Accord and Unity took place in Tbilisi today. The ceremony was opened by Academician Aleksandr Javakhishvili. Participants in the meeting were addressed by the head of state, who spoke about the great importance of the document.

This was followed by the signing of the declaration by representatives of various public and political organizations. Among the many signatories were the Association of Georgian Professional Unions, the Liberal Democratic Party, the People's Front, the Green movement, the Russo-Georgian Cultural Society, the National Democratic Party, and the Citizens' Union.

At the end of the ceremony our correspondent spoke with Eduard Shevardnadze and Giorgi Chanturia.

[Begin recording] [Shevardnadze] I think that this is the beginning of a very important movement. I cannot say that the declaration will solve all problems. However, the fact that it was signed by such reputable political associations, forces and public organizations and that we were all united by several principles stemming from national interests, means that we have embarked upon the path of unity in our struggle for the salvation, independence, and democratic development of the country.

As for the parties that are not represented here today, some of them have stated that they need some time to make up their mind. I think that if we do well and observe these principles, they will also join us, and a single front that is to lead us to a single Georgia will finally be formed.

[Chanturia] Unfortunately, we have not recently had the luxury of holding political events like this. This is undoubtedly a political event. I know that there will be many demagogues and populists saying that the mere signing of something does not mean much [words indistinct].

If we agree on these important principles, it will mean that we have a future. Opponents may say that some forces will not observe these principles. Those who will not are not going to benefit from doing so. This declaration gives us an opportunity to use it against any organization which has signed it and is not observing it.

In any case, this document should have been signed. The signing of this document has started off a major process. It may be not so conspicuous, since there is no waving of flags and destruction. Nevertheless, a very important political process has started. I hope that if this process gains sufficient momentum, we will be saved and will emerge as a state and a free society. Not only will we defend and retain our independence, but we will regain some of the lost ground as well. [end recording]

Text of Unity, Accord Declaration

LD2505214994 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 25 May 94

["Text" of Declaration of National Unity and Accord signed in Tbilisi on 25 May 1994]

[Text] We, the undersigned [as received], remaining loyal to the ideals of 26 May and realizing our immense responsibility to the country and its future, recognize that stability and consolidation are the necessary preconditions for the implementation of the unswerving will of the citizens of Georgia to build an independent and democratic state and strive for an open society.

Despite differences in the positions of various political forces, the basic principles shaping the country's future which are shared by a large proportion of the citizens of Georgia are to be laid down. A single state mentality, civic patriotism, and striving for a common goal must become the foundation for national consolidation.

We agree to the main principles in order to establish national accord and unity in the country. Our unswerving and undeviating principles are the following:

1. [word indistinct] the independence and territorial integrity of Georgia.

2. Adherence to democratic ideals, efforts to build a civic society, and strict observance of human rights.

3. Tolerance, compassion, and protection of the rights of ethnic minorities.

4. Implementation of economic reforms.

5. Establishment of law and order, uncompromising struggle against corruption, terrorism, and illegal drugs business, and support for the law-enforcement bodies.

6. Securing Georgia's rightful place in the world and the Caucasus region.

7. State and military construction.

8. Refusal to resort to violence or to forging alliance with special services of foreign countries, and shunning social and other forms of destabilization in order to achieve political and other goals.

9. Solving all state issues constitutionally, and deciding the issue of power through elections or, if necessary, pre-term elections.

By achieving national consensus we will clearly demonstrate that the building of an independent and democratic state in Georgia is the unswerving will of the Georgian people, which they are capable of implementing.

Our aim is an independent, strong, single, and democratic Georgia, which we all must build in unity, accord, and respect for one another.

Estonia

Meri Says Relations With Russia 'No. 1 Priority'

LD2405173594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1508 GMT 24 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 98 (588)]

[Text] President Lennart Meri called Estonian-Russian relations "a No.1 priority in the foreign policy." However, relations between his country and Russia, in his opinion, "can be based only on the Tartu Peace Treaty" of 1920.

IF Note: According to this treaty, Estonia included parts of the present Pskov and Leningrad regions of Russia of the total square of about 2,000 square kilometers. The Russian side has repeatedly stated that the Tartu Treaty had lost the [sentence incomplete as received].

As the president noted at a meeting with residents of the Parnu city and the district, the Tartu Treaty "allowed the Estonian people to realize the right for self-determination," and in this his sees its "eternal value."

As Interfax was told in the presidential press service, Meri hopes that "problems which so far have shadowed the Estonian-Russian relations, should find a constructive and practical resolution."

In the meantime, Tallin's aspiration to declare the Tartu Treaty a basis for Russian-Estonian relations was described by a high-ranking Russian diplomat as "judicially absurd." In an interview with Interfax he said that Meri's statements about the of this treaty cause "regret."

"Obviously, if Russia recognizes this treaty, it will have to exchange prisoners of war and those interned with the Estonian side, to confirm the existence of 'the neutrality zone' in the Finnish Gulf and to implement many other provisions of the treaty which have become hopelessly old," the Russian diplomat said.

He expressed hope that during a scheduled meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and the Estonian president in Tallinn, bilateral relations will be discussed "in a constructive spirit." "Russia's position remains the same: The Tartu Peace Treaty became invalid after Estonia joined the USSR in 1940," the diplomat concluded.

Kozyrev Meeting Does Not Break Troop Withdrawal Deadlock

WS2505115794 Tallinn BNS in English 0924 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, May 25, BNS—The first day of the Baltic Sea states' foreign ministers meeting yesterday didn't bring about an agreement in the Russian troop withdrawal deadline.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev after his meeting with President Lennart Meri didn't give any definite assurances that the troops will be pulled out from Estonia by Aug. 31, 1994, like Estonia and Western states insist.

Both Kozyrev and Meri, however, sounded optimistic. "I would like to sound as promising as possible because it is our common desire to open up a new page of relations," Kozyrev said after the meeting.

The Estonian president, too, said he had a "friendly and fruitful discussion" with Kozyrev about the still unsolved questions that Russia and Estonia need to resolve.

The two parties seem to have come closer on the main stumbling block, the issue of the 10,000 Russian military pensioners in Estonia. Estonia insists that most of retired servicemen should leave the country, whereas Russia has rejected this demand and is seeking social guarantees for the military retirees.

"I understand that the Estonian leadership is also determined and eager to look into the question of military pensioners in order to solve this too," the Russian foreign minister told reporters.

Meri said after the meeting both sides agreed that the military pensioners issue isn't linked with troop withdrawal. "I would like to add that we discussed in a very frank way the two problems which are not interlinked with each other," he said.

Kozyrev didn't comment on this statement, although Russia has previously always maintained the opposite. Even before his departure for Tallinn yesterday, the Russian foreign minister said the military pensioners issue is a part of the troop withdrawal question and that the two cannot be treated separately.

Meri also claimed Kozyrev "fully agrees that we will proceed" according to the Estonian legislation and government decisions. Yet it is those same laws and decisions that have earlier invited Russian protests because they don't guarantee that all retired servicemen may remain in Estonia.

Kozyrev said there are some difficulties in solving the military retirees issue. "Some of them are probably related to existing legislation and decisions," he said.

The Russian foreign minister wouldn't commit his country to a troop withdrawal deadline, but assured Russia wants to have the troops out as soon as possible. The speed of pullout depends on how quickly the problems can be ironed out, he said, and added that "there is still time to meet this deadline."

The Estonian president, on the other hand, claimed he hasn't the "slightest doubt" the troops will be withdrawn by the Aug. 31, 1994 deadline.

At those words, Kozyrev simply grinned.

On his way to the presidential palace Kozyrev made an unscheduled stop on a Tallinn street corner where he spoke to city residents. He asked a Russian woman if she was happy with her life in Estonia.

"Life here is in some ways better than in Russia," she said, but complained that Estonian citizenship laws were too tough.

Other Russians the foreign minister spoke to grumbled about economic hardships caused by Estonia's radical free-market reforms.

An Estonian said he was afraid that Moscow might restore the former Soviet Union and reabsorb the Baltic states.

"Russia doesn't want to establish the old U.S.S.R.—never," Kozyrev responded.

Some 2,500 Russian troops are still in Estonia, the only Baltic state that hasn't reached agreement with Russia on troop withdrawal. The 12,000 Russian military in Latvia will be pulled out from that Baltic nation by Aug. 31 according to the agreement signed April 30. Russian forces left Lithuania already last year.

Kozyrev's visit to the former Soviet republic was his first since Estonia regained its independence in 1991.

Kozyrev Defends Human Rights Memorandum

WS2605095494 Tallinn ETA in English 0736 GMT 26 May 94

[From 26 May EESTI SENUMID, PAEVALEHT, p 1; "News Bulletin" No. 101/94]

[Text] Thursday, May 26—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev defended the memorandum submitted by Russia and declared that Russia's attempts to develop "friendly and goodneighbourly relations with Estonia include the use of harsh terms". He also predicted that even harsher language would be used at his meeting with the Russian speakers in Tallinn.

The foreign minister told the listeners in the Slavic Culture Centre that Russia is developing a government programme for the aid and protection of the compatriots living abroad. A special commission will be formed, which could operate more efficiently than the Foreign Ministry with its diplomatic protocol. Kozyrev added that Russia is particularly interested in the pensioners' issue and problems of privatisation and enterprise.

He declared that the border issues will not be discussed and demanded that all retired military, including former KGB and GRU intelligence officers, must receive social guarantees as well as automatic citizenship. Describing the situation in Estonia, Kozyrev commented that, speaking as a private individual rather than a diplomat, he would have to ask for the ladies to leave the hall.

Pro-Patria Proposes Parliament Speaker as Leader

WS2505120894 Tallinn BNS in English 0924 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, May 25, BNS—A general meeting of the Tallinn branch of Pro Patria yesterday decided to put forward parliament Chairman Ulo Nugis' name as new party chairman in preference over Prime Minister Mart Laar.

Most party members who spoke at the meeting criticized Laar and stated their support for Nugis.

The speakers voiced apprehension that, if Pro Patria continues under Laar's leadership, the party may not attain the 5-percent threshold vote at the next parliamentary elections.

Nugis, too, was critical about the premier's performance and advised him to resign.

Pro Patria convenes in Tallinn June 11 to discuss election of new party chairman and the situation in the government and the ruling coalition.

The party council ruled on Monday [23 May] that election of new chairman doesn't automatically imply replacement of premier. Laar, on the other hand, asserted on Friday that he regards Pro Patria congress decisions as binding for himself. "If Pro Patria elects a new chairman I'll resign," he said.

Latvia

Ulmanis on Talks WIth UN, U.S. Leaders

LD2505132994 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 25 May 94

[Statement by Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis over the phone from the United States on 25 May; from the "Labrit" program—recorded]

[Text] There were three serious meetings with UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and members of the Security Council, and in the afternoon with U.S. President Clinton.

During all three meetings, the main issue was and remains the withdrawal of the Russian Army, its timetable, guarantees, and how not to allow, under any circumstances, this timetahle and these guarantees to be shaken in some way. I think that I received such guarantees in full from all three talks, and I would like to say today that there is no doubt that the troops will be withdrawn from Latvia in several months.

The second most important issue we discussed was the Skrunda radar station, what status it should have, how we will control the it, why there have to be guarantees so that after four years, the Skrunda will no longer be in Latvia, and so on and so on. All these issues caused rather lively discussions. So, for example, the United Nations Organization has not yet considered this issue seriously from the angle of guaranteeing the status of the Skrunda radar station. And during the talks with the Russian ambassador, we ascertained that after our talks in Russia, these instructions have, nevertheless, been (?brought) here and I think that within a few days, such guarantees will also be officially drawn up at the United Nations Organization.

The next issue was human rights, though this time it was no longer so acute and during the talks we were nowhere near to being reproached. I think that it is to a certain extent the success of both the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Latvian diplomats that, with our stance on concluding the agreement with Russia, we showed both Latvian political maturity and Latvia's wish to listen to foreign states and to

enter the world as a serious state with serious intentions, so that we never return to the system of CIS countries, which is being formed at the moment. But when we were speaking about human rights issues, we agreed then that this autumn, Hoze Lasso, high commissioner of the United Nations Organization, would visit the Nordic countries, Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia, to find out that human rights are no longer violated, nor have they ever been violated in the past.

We were talked a lot with UN leaders and with U.S. leaders about the necessity for both U.S. leaders and UN leaders to visit Latvia and find out how Latvia is developing and evolving. And I think that we have reached a certain agreement on these issues. Time will show which people will arrive and what they will give to Latvia.

With the U.S. President we not only talked about the agreement, but we also talked about future Latvian economic development. We said that to a certain extent American capital would have to come to Latvia, where the government would guarantee the use of the capital or would guarantee the inviolability of this capital, or something of the kind, so that the capital would be able to come more safely to the Baltic states.

And finishing this subject, I raised the issue of Estonia, because Baltic unity is of primary importance in all these issues. And I once again underlined that Latvia supports Estonia in all its requests. One of the issues I raised was the issue of the Paldiski base in Estonia, whose nuclear waste or nuclear energy may to a certain extent influence the future ecological and environmental protection situation in the Baltics.

While discussing Baltic security, we touched on three issues: the Skrunda radar station, the Paldiski base, and Kaliningrad—because there is nowhere else in the world where there is such a level of concentration of armed forces, as in Kaliningrad. I think that we received some support from both the United Nations and the United States, and also from the Security Council.

And as a proposal for our future Latvian strategy, we brought up the issue that perhaps in two or three years, it would be necessary to hold in Latvia a summit meeting of all heads of government, at which issues of how to use all the funds left over from the reduction of militarism, from arms reduction, from the withdrawal of troops, and so on would be discussed; so that it will be possible to direct all these funds toward the protection of the environment. And, as we laughed with President Clinton, we would be able to set up a green program on a world scale, which would take the place of militarism, totalitarianism, and armament.

Russian Paper Insists on Ulmanis' KGB Links

WS2505121494 Tallinn BNS in English 0924 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Riga, May 25, BNS—The Russia-based AL-KODS newspaper declines to retract an article accusing Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis of collaborating with the former Soviet security service.

The information that Ulmanis was a secret agent dubbed Hugo was given to the newspaper by a former Soviet Union KGB (Committee for National Security) employee, the paper's publisher Shaaban Hafiz Shaaban told BNS by telephone.

Shaaban, who is a Jordanian citizen, claimed that the information was "absolutely reliable" because the paper's staff had an opportunity to look into the respective documents, testifying Ulmanis' linkage to the notorious structure.

The name of the article's author, Ainars Vagris, is a pseudonym of a Russian-Latvian, Shaaban said.

As many as 3,000 copies of the AL-KODS newspaper are circulated in Latvia. The newspaper's title means "The Sacred City" and it aims, according to its motto, to "combat Zionism and its impact on the world politics and economy; to liberate Palestine from Zionist gangs."

The Moscow Chamber of Information Disputes said May 19 that AL-KODS was an unlawfully registered publication because the respective Russian laws barred foreign citizens from publishing activities.

To protest the article, the Latvian prosecutor general sent his Russian counterpart a letter on May 18 describing the publication as libel and injury to the honor and dignity of the Latvian president and the entire Latvian state institution.

Ulmanis himself has assessed the article as unprecedent provocation against the Latvian president and the Latvian state.

Justice Ministry Refuses To Register Some Parties

WS2505130894 Riga DIENA in Latvian 18 May 94 p 7

[Article by Liga Laizane: "Ten Organizations Were Refused Registration"]

[Text] Riga, 10 May—The Latvian Ministry of Justice has refused to register approximately 10 social and political organizations whose statutes do not correspond with Latvian legislation.

As DIENA was informed by Maris Krumins, chief of the department for registration of mass information media and social organizations in the Ministry of Justice, this is not a large number, in comparison with the total number of registered organizations. Thus far, the Ministry has registered 763 social organizations, 134 foundations, 306 sports organizations, and 35 political organizations.

Registration was denied on 19 July 1993 to the Latvian Communist Union [LKS] headed by Igor Lopatin, on the grounds that activities of a communist party in the Latvian Republic are forbidden.

On 9 August 1993, registration was also denied to the Latvian Union for Protection of Veterans [LVTAS], whose leader is Alberts Lebedevs. This organization was established, after the activity of the Council of War and Labor

Veterans, which took an active part in the August coup, was forbidden on 10 September 1991.

The LVTAS statutes state that it is a social organization uniting, on a voluntary basis, war veterans, retired and reserve officers, and Russian Army military personnel as well as civil staff of the military facilities, residing permanently in Latvia, and their family members. This organization also was a collective member of the Baltic Region Officers Union, which in turn is a member of an Russian officers association forbidden in Russia.

On 12 August 1993 the veteran organization applied to the court with a complaint against the Ministry of Justice, for refusing it registration. Until now, two court sessions have been held, and the third is due in late May. At their third annual conference on 19 March of the current year, the veterans mentioned as their main goal the registration of their organization. The organization is still active and comprises 3,300 members, as DIENA learned at the conference.

The Ministry of Justice has also declined to register the recently established "League of the Apatrids [people without homeland]" [LAL]. The Minister of Justice Egils Levits states in the refusal that inhabitants who are not Latvian citizens cannot carry out political activities in the Latvian Republic. Nonetheless, LAL is setting as its goal the stimulation of the activities of the noncitizens in Latvia. In their appeal, they say that the goal of LAL is to integrate the noncitizens in Latvia and to serve as their representative. At the meeting on 9 May, LAL disseminated a poll with the names of the candidates for the representative organ of the League.

Besides the above mentioned organizations, the Ministry of Justice refused to register a similar veteran organization in Liepaja, the 11th regiment of dragoons organized by lieutenant Mihail Ustinov, and the club for breeding "Gladiator" guard dogs. Also the organizations bearing the same name as those who already have been registered have been refused registration—the second Liberal Party, and the second Latvian National Independent Movement.

'Harmony for Latvia' Faction Changes Name

LD2505200594 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1900 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] The Saeima faction Harmony for Latvia [Saskana Latvijai] will in the future be known as the Economic-Political Union Faction [Tautsaimnieku Politiskas Apvienibas Frakcija]. This was decided today at a session of the faction. The faction was formed to unite deputies who were elected to the Saeima from a list of 19 candidates and the Economic-Political Union. The faction resolved to support the policy consultation formed at the initiative of the Harmony for Latvia party from center-oriented parties of the right and left, represented and not represented in the Saeima. Mentioned as possible participants in the consultation are such organizations as the Latvian Way, the Democratic Party, the People's Harmony party, the Landowner [Saimnieks], the Latvian Social Democratic Party of Labor, and Harmony for Latvia.

Lithuania

Vilnius Reports Baltic Air Force Agreement

LD2505194594 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] The air force commanders of the three Baltic states have agreed on cooperation in air space control and the training of air force pilots. An agreement signed at the Lithuanian Meskuiciai air force base confirms the intent to set up a joint air space control system. Representatives of the Baltic states note technical and financial advantages of such integration and the intention to join corresponding NATO structures. It will probably take 5 to 10 years to create a joint Baltic air space control system.

The Baltic representatives also decided to set up a joint training center for air force pilots in Lithuania. Estonian air force pilots took their first training flights on Lithuanian planes at Meskuiciai base today.

Lithuania's air force, with four L-39 jet training fighters of Czech production, two transport L-410 planes donated by Germany, and several dozen AN-2 planes and helicopters, is the strongest among the Baltic states and the most experienced.

Two of the four Lithuanian jet planes and one helicopter will demonstrate their combat skill on Saturday [28 May] on a military airfield near Riga during celebrations devoted to the 75th anniversary of the Latvian air force.

Ignalina Nuclear Plant Official Denies Rumors of Accident

WS2605113494 Tallinn BNS in English 1936 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Vilnius, May 25, BNS—The director of the Ignalina nuclear power plant, Viktor Shevaldin, categorically denied reports that an accident as if occurred at the plant.

Rumors about an accident reached Lithuania Wednesday [25 May], first from Belarus and later from Latvia. Shevaldin even received telephone calls from the Belarussian atomic energy inspection.

"The rumors are completely groundless. Both reactors are at a standstill and there were no accidents," Shevaldin told BNS.

Ignalina's first reactor is still undergoing maintenance repairs which started March 26. The second reactor was shut down April 12 when excess energy appeared at Latvian hydroelectric power stations.

Shevaldin said neither of Ignalina's reactors should be started earlier than June 20 and added that public announcements will be made in advance.

Povilas Vaisnys, head of the Lithuanian Atomic Energy Safety Inspection, said the rumors that were set afloat Wednesday are "misinformation," which may be related to political process in one of the neighboring countries that he did not specify. The official said "it's all quiet at the Ignalina nuclear plant."

Local Elections Valid When 25 Percent of Electors Vote

LD2505173494 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] Local elections will be regarded as having taken place when at least one-fourth of the electors participate. The Seimas did not pass today the whole law on local elections, but established during the voting on individual articles of the law that the elections will be valid when 25 percent of the electors participate.

Local elections should take place this autumn or winter. The candidates for the elections may be nominated by political parties and political organizations. This rule is opposed by the Union of Lithuanian Poles, which organized a picket at the Seimas building today. The picketers demanded that public organizations of the national minorities be allowed to take part in the Seimas and local elections. They said in a statement that no national minority in Lithuania has its political party but takes part in political life through its public organization.

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